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Thursday January 4 1996

Albania L 2.20	Hong Kong HK\$ 25	Poland Z 5.70
Australia AS 2.00	India IN 50	Portugal P 200
Belgium BF 12.35	Indonesia ID 1,900	Romania R 2,000
Canada CA 1.70	Iran IR 1,000	Saudi Arabia S 1,000
Czech Republic CZK 16	Italy I 1,300	Slovenia SLT 260
Dubai D 8.50	Latvia LV 2	Soviet Union R 16
Egypt E 5	Lithuania LT 150	Sweden S 16
France F 11	Luxembourg L 25	Switzerland SF 3
Germany DM 3.50	Malaysia M 2.00	Thailand B 16
Greece D 350	Mexico MX 15	Turkey TL 1,900
	Morocco D 15	Ukraine UA 200
	Netherlands G 3.75	USA US\$ 2.75
	Norway N 100	
	Oman O 1.00	

# The Guardian

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

INTERNATIONAL  
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Inside the nation's shopping trolleys

## Supermarket wars

Guardian 2 with European weather

OnLine

## A game of cosmic ping-pong

G2 pages 10/13

Maradona confesses to cocaine addiction

## 'I am, was, and always will be a drug addict'



This section page 16

Dissident ordered to Caribbean island after pressure from arms firms

# UK bows to Saudis

## Fury as Arab refugee expelled

Sources: Mike and Ian Black

THE British government yesterday bowed to pressure from the Saudi regime, the United States government and British arms companies when it ordered the deportation of Saudi Arabia's most prominent dissident to a tiny Caribbean island, the Guardian has learned.

Mohammed al-Mas'ari, leader of the influential London-based Islamic opposition group, the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, who last year applied for political asylum in Britain, has been given 10 days to appeal against his removal to Dominica, or report to Gatwick airport on January 12.

Mr Mas'ari, who escaped from Saudi Arabia via Yemen, was told by the Home Office that his application was being refused "without substantive consideration" and that Edison James, the prime minister of the former British colony of Dominica, has agreed to give him asylum. Earlier this year, a government attempt to deport the Saudi dissident back to Yemen was blocked by the Immigration Appeals Tribunal on the grounds that his life would be in danger there.

News of Mr Mas'ari's deportation order came on the day the Foreign Office announced that Andrew Green, currently in charge of Middle East policy in London, has been appointed British ambassador to Riyadh — reflecting the pivotal nature of the Saudi relationship.

The latest move to get rid of Mr Mas'ari was greeted with outrage by human rights and Middle East campaigners.

Lord Avebury, a Liberal Democrat peer and chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, said the expulsion was a breach of Britain's obligations under the UN Convention. He added that "highly improper" public criticism of Mr Mas'ari by the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, had seriously prejudiced the asylum seeker's case.

George Galloway, the Scottish Labour MP who has championed the Saudi opposition, last night wrote to the



Mohammed al-Mas'ari, vociferous critic of the Saudi regime, at home yesterday. He has 10 days to appeal against deportation. PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Home Secretary, Michael Howard, saying his decision to deport Mr al-Mas'ari to an "Etha-type exile" was a "sordid act of obedience to the arms dealers in Britain and the dictators in Riyadh".

Under the Immigration Act, refugees can be deported to a safe third country if they did not come to Britain from the country where they risk persecution. But a Home Office spokeswoman said she was not aware of any precedent for the power being used in the way it is being deployed against Mr Mas'ari, who is expected to appeal.

Mr Mas'ari's removal would be an enormous relief

to the Foreign Office, which has found his presence in Britain an embarrassment in relations with Saudi Arabia, a key export market and political ally in the region.

In recent months the question of what to do with him has become an obsession for senior mandarins as British businessmen were repeatedly warned of sanctions by Saudi Arabia if action were not taken. King Fahd, until this week absolute ruler of Saudi Arabia, is understood to have personally demanded Mr Mas'ari's expulsion when Mr Rifkind was in Riyadh last November, and British-owned multinationals such as

Vickers and British Aerospace told the Government it must act or face a devastating toll in lost contracts.

Mr Mas'ari was imprisoned and tortured in Saudi Arabia before he came to Britain in April 1994. His anti-American organisation campaigns for an elected government and against corruption and the presence of foreign troops in the country. Despite its Islamist colour, it has also, for example, opposed the Saudi ban on women driving cars.

Every week the campaign faxes to Saudi Arabia hundreds of copies of a newsletter detailing corruption. A favourite item is "prince of

the month," which exposes the alleged misdeeds of a member of the royal family.

Saudi Arabia bought 21.5 billion worth of British goods in 1994 and is Britain's 18th largest export market. More crucial still is the £20 billion al-Yamamah arms-for-oil deal, signed by Margaret Thatcher in 1985, which involves the supply of British Aerospace Tornado aircraft and other defence equipment over about 20 years.

Last November, the Foreign Office denounced Mr Mas'ari when he expressed understanding of the motives of those who planted a bomb at a US installation in Riyadh.

# Major 'must crush Tory rightwing'

Michael White and Rebecca Smithers

TORY defector Alan Howarth today warns his old party that John Major's failure to deal with Michael Portillo as Edward Heath dealt with Enoch Powell will condemn the party to at least two general election defeats before it comes to its senses.

In a fresh incitement to rebellion on the Tory left, made in an article in today's Guardian, the MP for Stratford-on-Avon, who joined Labour two months before Emma Nicholson defected to the Liberal Democrats, predicts that the rightwing majority of Tory MPs who survive the coming election will defeat their One Nation colleagues in "the short and nasty struggle" to pick a new leader.

Mr Howarth argues that "only when Michael Portillo or John Redwood, or whoever the rightwing leader of the Tories is, has lost the election after next will it be brought home to the party that it has marginalised itself."

"The return to sanity and decency will begin then" — too late for One Nation Tories now at Westminster.

While Miss Nicholson said yesterday that only Kenneth Clarke's succession to the leadership would start the Tories on "the way back", Mr Howarth says it is too late. He contrasts Mr Major's "apostasy" of the right with Mr Heath's expulsion of Mr Powell from his shadow cabinet after the "rivers of blood" speech predicting racial mayhem in 1968.

Urging ex-colleagues to defect to the Labour Party, he says that the Conservative Party has "reached a point of confusion and aberration at which the judgment of its MPs who object deeply to rightwing zealotry must surely be that they should go beyond protesting. They have fought their corner bravely and doggedly from within,

but they have not been able to prevail. The time has come for one-nation Tory MPs to say they will no longer put up with the harshness, injustice, dogmatism and stupidity of the dominant right."

Although Mr Howarth urges more leftwing MPs to defect, rather than shore up Mr Major into 1997, he warns them that they will face ostracism from ex-colleagues — "the collective malice of a bitter party, amplified by the media" — as he and Miss Nicholson have done.

Some rightwing Tories, including Mr Redwood, are appalled at the harsh rhetoric of colleagues like Michael Heseltine and Mr Portillo since last week's defection. But yesterday the in-fighting which it triggered showed no signs of subsiding.

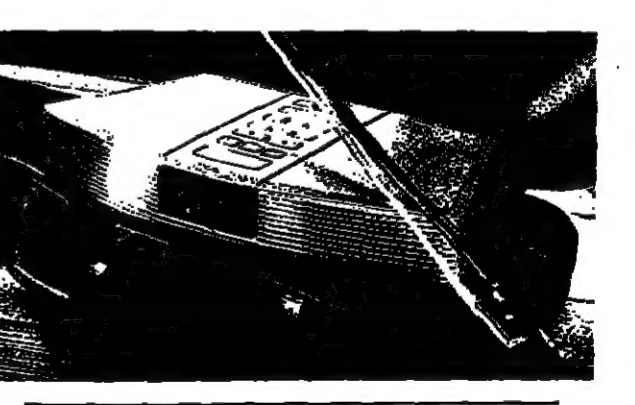
Temper were further inflamed by a pledge from left-leaning Tory MPs in the new Macleod Group to publish their own alternative policies shortly.

William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, warned fellow moderates that their alleged "manifesto" could undermine the party at a critical time.

As members of the 50-strong group of One Nation MPs played down the significance of their planned pamphlet by insisting it was not intended to be provocative, Mr Waldegrave said: "I don't think it is very sensible of people, in what might conceivably be an election year, to start challenging people in their own party."

"It's perfectly right to remember that the Conservative Party, or any party in this country which has a chance of winning an election, has got to be a broad church."

"Within that broad church you are going to have different views. Now, a party that is going to win, and a skillful party, is one that binds together differing views."



Edie hits headphones, page 2

# Police chief urges pepper sprays

Owen Bowcott

POLICE constables should be armed with CS gas or pepper sprays to foil knife attacks, the Chief Constable of the West Midlands police urged yesterday after assaults on four of his officers in one evening.

One of the injured constables, PC Vanessa Greening, aged 22, was still in hospital with a fractured skull last night after being confronted in a Birmingham suburb by six men armed with sledgehammers, an iron bar and knives.

Speaking at a press conference at force headquarters, Sir Ronald Hatfield warned: "My fear is that it will take the death of an officer before measures are taken to give my officers protection."

"The only answer in the



Vanessa Greening... skull fractured in iron bar attack

face with two gangs wielding knives. PC Greening and a colleague, PC Jon Jackson, had been responding to reports of a burglary in the King's Heath area.

PC Jackson was struck on the back of the head with a sledgehammer and later required six stitches for an arm wound. PC Greening was attacked as she went to his aid and was beaten around the head with an iron bar.

In the second incident, two officers were called to a flat in Edgbaston, where they confronted a gang assaulting the owner. At least four of the gang were armed with knives, including a seven-inch bowie blade.

Assaults on police officers are up 5 per cent on the previous year, Sir Ronald said. "We have here three incidents where my officers could have been killed very, very

easily. They were protected only by a baton and the next option available to me would be firearms. I have increased the number of firearms carried by officers in my force but if these police officers had an incapacitator of some sort, they could have prevented further injuries to themselves."

The chief constable said he would prefer pepper spray, which was widely used by American police. The Home Office and Association of Chief Police Officers are concerned about the medical effects of pepper sprays, which some sources fear could be carcinogenic.

Trials of CS sprays were halted last summer after a Metropolitan Police inspector suffered burns to his eyes.

Officers are searching for a safer solvent to be used in hand-held canisters.

# Jackpot fever conjures up unlikely tale of syndicate laying a £14m 'lousy bet'

Owen Bowcott

DESPITE the improbability and security precautions, speculation grew yesterday that a 2,500-strong Australian syndicate was planning to win the record £33 million-plus triple roll-over National Lottery jackpot this weekend.

However, the Heritage Department insisted only a lunatic would waste £13,983,916 on a "lousy bet" covering every possible permutation.

Reports of the plan sur-

facted in Australia and centred on Stefan Mandel, a Romanian-born mathematician whose syndicate won \$18 million on the Virginia state lottery two years ago.

As the rumours gained credibility yesterday, attention focused on the logistical problems. Camelot, the lottery operator, produced mind-boggling figures designed to prove how steeply the odds are stacked against any syndicate.

Each card, for example, must be filled in by hand, and it takes four seconds for the computer to register every five numbers.

At that rate it would take 40 retailers 16 hours to record every possible combination.

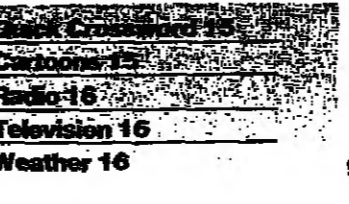
Another source estimated it would take 50,000 hours to fill in every card. If you started at 9am today, you would need 900 inebriated pals to complete the task by the time the lottery closed.

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Washington sketch

Telling it like it is - in the audience



Jonathan Freedland

WHITNEY Houston is not a preacher, though she seemed like one. Each time she spoke, her audience cried out in response. "That's right," they chorused, like a congregation at one of Washington's countless black churches. "Hm-hm, say it girl."

Except this was not a church, but a cinema. And Whitney Houston was not preaching, but on screen in the first smash hit of 1996: Waiting To Exhale, the movie version of a novel about four black professional women and their search for the right man. The overwhelmingly black audience at Washington's Union Station cinema was proof that, since opening as the number one film in America, Waiting is no longer a mere movie. It's a social phenomenon.

African-American women have hailed the film as "our Million Man March" — their answer to the all-male black rally that filled Washington last October. Groups of black women — mothers, daughters, friends, church groups and women's book clubs — have been packing out cinemas like this one, engaging in the kind of call-and-response usually reserved for the Baptist sermon or the political rally.

"Go, girl," cried the audience in unison, when Bernadine, played by Angela Bassett, filled her cheating husband's BMW with all his suits, doused it in petrol and torched the lot. His crime: he had just told Bernadine he was leaving her — for a white woman.

Never for a moment was the cinema silent. "Hal-lo," the audience called as love interest Wesley Snipes came into view. "Swing, girl," they urged as portly Gloria wiggled her way past a new suit.

When Whitney Houston was submitted to a rapid, no-

foreplay clinch, the auditorium erupted. "Hold on baby, I'm on my way," said the young on-screen lover, unable to contain himself. The rest of the scene was greeted by whoops, cheers and laughter. The men in the audience were conspicuously hushed.

"I wouldn't shake that man's hand," muttered Anita Bonner, as Bernadine made peace with her ex after winning a chunky alimony settlement. "She did the right thing, honey," said Anita's husband, Calvin.

The Union Station cinema has become used to an audience-participation tradition among the mainly black community it serves. A sign headlined "Yakety Yak!" reminds patrons of the "two shushes" rule — be warned over noise twice and you're out.

But Waiting To Exhale is a special case. "You can relate to it," said Sarah Jones, a secretary at the Department of Commerce. "You've thought it before, and it's like, finally someone said it."

Actress Lela Rochon has said she liked making the film because, for once, black women were not shown as "hookers, strippers and on welfare." Sarah Jones agreed. "A lot of black films are beat 'em up, gang 'em up, and life is not always like that."

She and her friend Cynthia Miller had spent their New Year's Eve just like the characters in the film and they related to every detail, from the ageing mother living off state benefits to the all-black beauty salons.

"We're all like that," said Cynthia. "This movie's opening a lot of people's eyes to their own lives. Critics have attacked the film and the source novel for damning portrayals of black men, but the Washington crowd had no problem with the view that relationships with married men or crack-heads are doomed."

"They're behind bars, they've got bad credit, they're not white women, they're ugly, and they've got little dicks that can't fuck," say the four characters during one, ensemble men-bashing session.

Actually, the list went on, but the rest was inaudible — they were being drowned out by the noise of laughter, high-fives and cheers.

First night

Driven to despair in moral depravity

Michael Billington

The Duchess of Malfi Wyndham's Theatre

YOU can go years without seeing Webster's The Duchess of Malfi. Then, suddenly, like Number 11 buses, they come along in pairs. But Declan Donnellan's Cheek By Jowl revival is infinitely darker and more disturbing than last year's Greenwich Theatre production, which also, by odd chance, ended up at Wyndham's.

One thing, however, they have in common — an emphasis on the quasi-incestuous relationship between the duchess and her twin brother, Ferdinand. In older, more circumspect, days it always seemed odd that Ferdinand and the Cardinal should object so strenuously to their widowed sister's furtive liaison with her steward.

But here Scott Handy's feverish Ferdinand paws and mauls Anastasia Hill's reciprocally affectionate duchess in a way that suggests they are still locked together in a nursery passion. Even the vicious practical jokes he plays on her smack of infantile japes rather than ghouliah horror.

This is in keeping with the tone of Donnellan's immaculately intelligent production. He treats the play less as a Hammer horror exercise in the macabre than as a study of the contrast between official belief and instinctive sexuality.

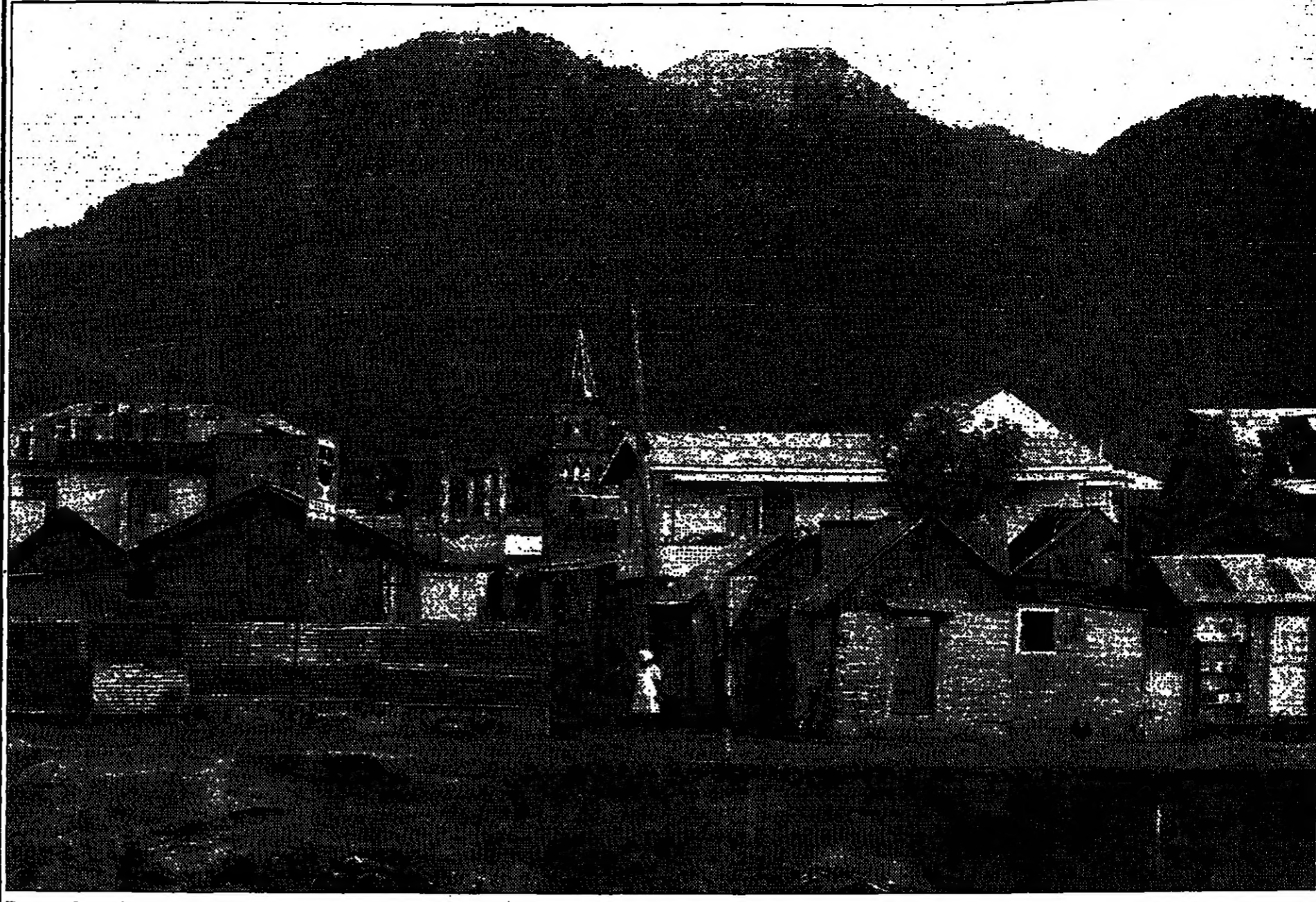
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Roseau, the capital of Dominica, an island of 72,000 whose main export is bananas (below right). The tranquillity is shaken only by the odd hurricane MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: PHILIP WOLMUTH

Exile hits boardrooms where it hurts

Saudi irritation at the activities of a hi-tech dissident has sent frightening signals to British firms, reports Leslie Plommer

TOM WOLFE would have a fine time with Mohammed al-Mas'ari, the uncrowned king of Middle Eastern radical chic. While many Saudis and Western officials are not convinced by his self-portrayal as a campaigning democrat — suspecting him of being in the thrall of Islamic medievalists — his anti-Riyadh attacks have recently begun to hit hard, not so much among average Saudis but in British boardrooms.

"There is a growing negative attitude at the [Saudi] state level to doing major business with Britain," one banker said yesterday. He added that "irritation has intensified at Mr Mas'ari's activities, and is now 'extreme right through to the top' in the Saudi government."

British companies say firmly that, although they have received no formal threats, there have been clear and increasing signals in the past three months that they are being refused contracts because of Mr Mas'ari's residence in Britain.

In the eight months to August 1995, Britain sold \$260 million worth of exports to Saudi Arabia. The giant al-Yamamah armaments contract alone accounts for 70,000 British jobs.

At a time when Gulf contracts no longer come easily, the Mas'ari factor has frightened British industry badly and left what appears to be a strong asylum case in shreds.

A talkative and often humorous former physicist, educated partly in the United States, Mr Mas'ari, aged 49, won his first British appeal against deportation earlier this year.

Under international asylum conventions, he cannot be returned to Saudi Arabia, where he was jailed in 1993. Britain's Immigration Appeals Tribunal declared that neither could he be sent to Yemen, where he stayed for several months.

Exile in Dominica seems a crude device, a modern replay of the colonial pique that sent Archbishop Makarios of Cyprus into exile in the Seychelles in 1966.

But, of course, the archbishop later became president. Mr Mas'ari may not be a Saudi government cannot yet rest easy — even if British business can.



Devout, may have to look elsewhere for spiritual sustenance. But other sources of comfort will be equally hard to reach.

He will have his work cut out, for instance, if he wishes to contact the British authorities. Since Dominica's independence in 1978, the nearest outpost of British diplomacy has been in Barbados, an hour's flight away.

The traditional delight of Caribbean islands is also absent. "White sandy beaches? Oh no, we can't claim to have them," said the woman from the High Commission. "If you like forest, or scuba-diving, anything natural, we've got plenty of that."

What the island can boast is hurricanes. Two of them, Iris and Louis, pummeled it last year.

There is one consolation prize awaiting Mr Mas'ari if and when he steps off the plane in the capital, Roseau. The island was one of the first in the West Indies to receive the telephone.

That will please Mr Mas'ari, who is renowned for promulgating his dissent via fax. So, if his expulsion is designed to silence him, the authorities may have to think again.

Coma girl recovering

Ecstasy taker out of intensive care unit, reports Vivek Chaudhary

DOCTORS treating a young woman who slipped into a coma after taking an ecstasy tablet at a New Year's Eve disco said yesterday that she is likely to make a full recovery.

Helen Cousins, aged 19, was in a coma for two days, suffering a series of fits, and was breathing with the aid of a ventilator. She is now drifting in and out of consciousness, breathing on her own and has been transferred from the intensive care unit of Peterborough district hospital to a general ward.

Michael Dronfield, who is treating her, said: "I think the prognosis is now very good. We expect her to make a complete recovery. The next day will be quite important."

Miss Cousins' collapse follows the death of Leah Betts, who never regained consciousness after taking ecstasy at her 18th birthday party a few weeks before Christmas.

Miss Cousins took the tablet while celebrating at Winers nightclub in Peterborough. She collapsed later, at a friend's house.

Before slipping into a coma, she had drunk seven litres of water trying to quench the thirst which ecstasy induces.

Dr Dronfield said Miss Cousins put her life in danger by drinking too much water. The sodium level in her blood had dropped alarmingly, leading to coma.

What it does: Stimulates the brain. Ecstasy in the bloodstream reaches the brain where it is believed to cause a massive release of certain messenger chemicals, particularly one known as 5HT or serotonin. 5HT is important in regulating mood, sleep, aggression, hunger and sexual activity. Stimulates heart and lungs. The amphetamine-like effects cause stimulation of the body's 'fight or flight' responses, meaning that heart rate and blood pressure go up, chemical processes are speeded up and more oxygen is taken in by the lungs.

The risks: Can promote a feeling of closeness, empathy and enhanced sensuality. It may also inhibit orgasm in both sexes. Many of the risks stem from the substances used to adulterate the tablets, but ecstasy itself is linked to panic attacks, dizziness, fainting, vomiting, headaches and persecutory feelings. Fits have been reported, and blood pressure changes could trigger strokes. A rare response is a sudden and massive rise in body temperature linked with damage to muscle fibres and blood-clotting. This can lead to liver or kidney failure, coma, convulsions and death.

the problems ecstasy can cause is that it affects the kidneys' ability to get rid of water," he added.

Doctors believe that Leah Betts died from drinking too much water. An inquest into her death was opened and adjourned on November 22.

Miss Cousins' parents, Trevor and Janet, said yesterday: "Helen is our only child and we are totally devastated by what has happened."

"This could be your daughter, your son, your sister, your brother. Please, if you are tempted to take drugs and you are listening to this, think about it. Don't take the risk."

They also appealed for information about who sold their daughter the drug. Miss Betts' parents launched a nationwide campaign to warn youngsters about ecstasy, and Leah's picture was used in anti-drugs posters and leaflets.

Her father, Paul Betts, sent the Cousins a message of support, adding that Helen's case "makes me wonder if we are getting through at all". He added: "We are wondering how many more young people have to become ill before the Government cracks down on ecstasy and other drugs."

Advertisement for Nationwide mortgage services. Features a dog and text: 'be prudent', 'get our one year mortgage rate of only 2.14%', 'be extravagant', 'buy a few things you don't really need'. Includes phone number 0800 30 20 10 and Nationwide logo.

Handwritten text at the bottom right: 'سكان الامل' (Sakan al-amil)

**The Fleadh**  
Where: Finsbury Park, London  
Born: 1990  
Backer: Mean Fiddler  
Crowd: 30,000  
Image: Ireland comes to London

**Womad**  
Where: Rivermead Leisure Centre, Reading  
Born: 1982  
Backer: Womad, Reading  
Crowd: 17,000  
Image: World Music

**Reading**  
Where: Reading  
Born: 1970  
Backer: Mean Fiddler  
Crowd: 50,000  
Image: Muddy Rock

**Tribal Gathering**  
Where: Olmoor Park, Oxford  
Born: 1995  
Backer: Universe, Mean Fiddler  
Crowd: 30,000  
Image: Techno rave

**Phoenix**  
Where: Stratford  
Born: 1992  
Backer: Mean Fiddler  
Crowd: 45,000  
Image: Poor man's Glastonbury

**Festivals of Britain**  
A guide to the other big music festivals

**Monsters of Rock**  
Where: Donnington Park, Wokingham  
Born: 1980  
Backer: Midland Council Promotions  
Crowd: 70,000  
Image: Heavy Rock

**T in the Park**  
Where: Strathclyde Country Park, Motherwell  
Born: 1984  
Backer: Tannis beer  
Crowd: 35,000  
Image: McEwan's whisky

# Health plans anger GPs

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

**D**OCTORS are to protest that the British Medical Association sent them promotional material for discount private health insurance at a time when it says it is battling to save the National Health Service.

Association members have received a letter on behalf of PPP Healthcare, a leading insurer, saying that as doctors they are "probably more discerning when it comes to healthcare needs".

The BMA defended its action, saying it has been involved in private schemes since before the NHS was created. But critics question the wisdom of the promotion at a time when the service's future is under fierce debate.

John Collee, a doctor who writes on medical matters for the *Observer* newspaper, said: "I think it is absolutely scandalous. Here we are, all furiously supporting the principles of the NHS, and yet here's the BMA inviting me to join PPP at reduced rates."

Sam Everington, an east London general practitioner and member of the BMA's ruling council, said he would raise the issue at next week's council meeting. "It's highly hypocritical to be supporting the NHS on the one hand and promoting private medicine on the other. The defence will be that there is no reason why BMA members should not have the choice, but it's quite a different thing to be sending this stuff out."

The letter, distributed last month, encourages doctors to subscribe to one of three plans drawn up by PPP for BMA members. One offers particularly cheap rates on the basis that doctors do not charge each other, or each other's families. It does not therefore cover specialist fees.

A BMA spokesman said the association had been party to similar schemes "since the year dot", although only a few of its 108,000 members took advantage. It was not opposed to private medicine, which did not damage the NHS in any way. "In the same way as any other professional organisation, all we are doing is offering cheaper rates on the basis of a group scheme."

PPP, formerly Private Patients Plan, was started in 1940 by the BMA and four medical royal colleges. The NHS was created in 1948.



The way it was... festival-goers entering into the spirit of Glastonbury last year. PHOTOGRAPH: EAMONN MCCABE

# Glastonbury takes one-year break to regain hippy spirit

Geoffrey Gibbs and Alex Bellis

**G**LASTONBURY festival yesterday became a victim of its own mammoth success when its founder cancelled this year's event, saying it needed a rest to recapture its original hippy spirit.

Michael Eavis, the Somerset farmer who has seen the festival grow in 25 years to become the biggest rock music event in Europe, said: "We're having a fallow year, having a rest - it's good farming practice."

Mr Eavis, aged 60, denied the decision was linked to his recent selection as the Labour candidate for Tory-held Wells at the next general election. He added that the next festival would take place in June 1997.

The gaping hole in this year's pop calendar is music to the ears of the big-time promoters, Mean Fiddler, who have been relentlessly buying into the business and now control the four next highest-profile events, including Phoenix and Reading.

It will also be greeted with a measure of relief by locals near Mr Eavis's Worthy Farm, at Pilton, near Shepton Mallet, not all of whom welcome the invasion of tens of thousands of people for the three-day event.

Last summer's festival was the busiest so far, with all 80,000 tickets sold and at least another 20,000 people who scaled the perimeter fence.

The cream of Britpop, such as Oasis and Pulp, played, and there were acres of fields containing activities ranging



**'It's nice to be a bit magical and mystical. Really, we want to take the festival's profile back a little way'**

Michael Eavis, farmer and Glastonbury host

from stone masonry to meditation.

Its success confirmed Glastonbury's reputation as one of the most vibrant and diverse festivals in the world.

Mr Eavis said: "It's become very high profile, and that's a bit of a problem. I won't say we're going back to our hippy roots, but it's nice to be a bit magical and mystical about it. We want to take the profile of the festival back a bit."

The break would give the farm and wildlife a chance to recover and provide an oppor-

tunity for those involved in the organisation to take stock.

"It will also be a break for the people who don't like it because they are pretty long suffering," he added.

Mr Eavis, a father of eight children from two marriages, is treated with almost as much devotion by festival-goers as the pop stars that perform. He is often seen driving around the site in his Land-Rover shaking people's hands.

Bald with a bushy beard, he may look like an eccentric, but has a shrewd business brain in running the £4 million festival as well as his organic farm, which produces 8,000 pints of milk a day.

He said there had been no pressure to cancel the festival from either the police or the local authority, and both bodies had sounded disappointed when he informed them. "Normally I get done for something, but 1995 was the first time in six years that I have not been prosecuted," he said.

"In recent times we have had years off in 1988 and 1991 following problems in the festivals of the preceding year. In 1988, the well-publicised event of the fence coming down led to some problems, and these will have to be resolved for future years."

Graham Jeffs, chief executive of Mendip district council, said the decision to suspend the 1996 event would enable the council and the organisers to give further consideration to ways of controlling the perennial problem of the numbers attending the festival.

Charities will lose out from the festival's cancellation, es-

pecially Greenpeace, which uses the festival as a showcase for its campaigns. It also got the lion's share of the £450,000 which Mr Eavis donated to charity last year.

Mr Eavis is not considered to have much of a chance in standing Wells. The previous Labour candidate came a poor third in 1992, polling just over 6,000 votes compared with almost 22,000 for the Liberal Democrats and 28,620 for the victorious Tory, David Heathcoat-Amory.

# Tycoon's death 'irrelevant'

Maxwell trial: Jury urged to look at media group's 'culture'

**R**OBERT MAXWELL'S mysterious death at sea should be regarded as "accidental" and irrelevant to the innocence or guilt of his sons, an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday.

Lord Justice Phillips, beginning his summing-up in the 118-day trial, told jurors that despite speculation that the media baron had committed suicide, the prosecution had offered no evidence for this, and no "adverse inference" could be drawn from it.

It would not be enough to decide that it was "more likely than not" that the three accused - Kevin and Ian Maxwell, and Larry Trachtenberg, financial adviser to the Maxwell empire - were guilty. Jurors had to be certain.

The three deny conspiring to defraud Maxwell pension funds by risking £22 million worth of shares in the Israeli pharmaceutical group, Teva, as collateral for Maxwell group loans. Kevin Maxwell alone denies conspiring with his father to defraud the pen-

sion fund, by misusing £100 million of shares in the Israeli printing group Sotex.

Judge Phillips told jurors that if they believed Robert Maxwell had not been guilty of conspiracy, they had to acquit Kevin on the Sotex charge, since it took two to make a conspiracy. If jurors acquitted Kevin on the Teva charge, they also had to acquit the others, since the Crown's case against Kevin was its "foundation stone".

The three defendants had been directors of Bishopsgate Investment Management (BIM), the Maxwell group pension company responsible for administering the funds for pensioners' benefit. But the judge said taking commercial risks with pension fund assets was not dishonest in itself - the jury had to be certain the defendants had known what they were doing was dishonest.

He added: "If you put your money on an outsider at the Ascot races, you may be considered rash, but no one will suspect that you acted improperly and dishonestly. But if trustees risk pension fund assets by putting them on

horses at Ascot, you will all agree that pensioners whose pensions are being put at risk will have grounds for complaint.

Judge Phillips said jurors needed to consider the "culture" of the Maxwell empire, where assets were frequently transferred between the group's companies, and in which Robert Maxwell had frequently used the funds in effect as a "private merchant bank". He said they needed to weigh up whether the defendants were so "infected" with this culture that they "lost sight of the implications of their conduct". In doing so, jurors would need to consider Kevin Maxwell's character.

He went on: "I don't believe that any of you, having seen Mr Maxwell in the witness box for about 21 days, can have been left in any doubt about his very considerable ability."

Reminding jurors that Kevin Maxwell had admitted lying to officials from the Bank of Nova Scotia, the judge said the impression given by a witness was "not an infallible guide to truthfulness". But jurors should not conclude: "He's told lies, why should we believe a word he says? He must be guilty."

Judge Phillips continues summing up today.

# Lottery fever conjures up tale of £14m 'lousy bet'

Continued from page 1 on Saturday evening. Then you would need more people to place the tickets in time. To win the Virginia lottery, Mr Mandel's syndicate used 30 computers, 12 accountants and a paratrooper to oversee security.

While attempts have been made to buy every sequence on the Irish Lotto - which requires only five winning numbers out of 36 possibilities - the UK version was designed to have too many permutations.

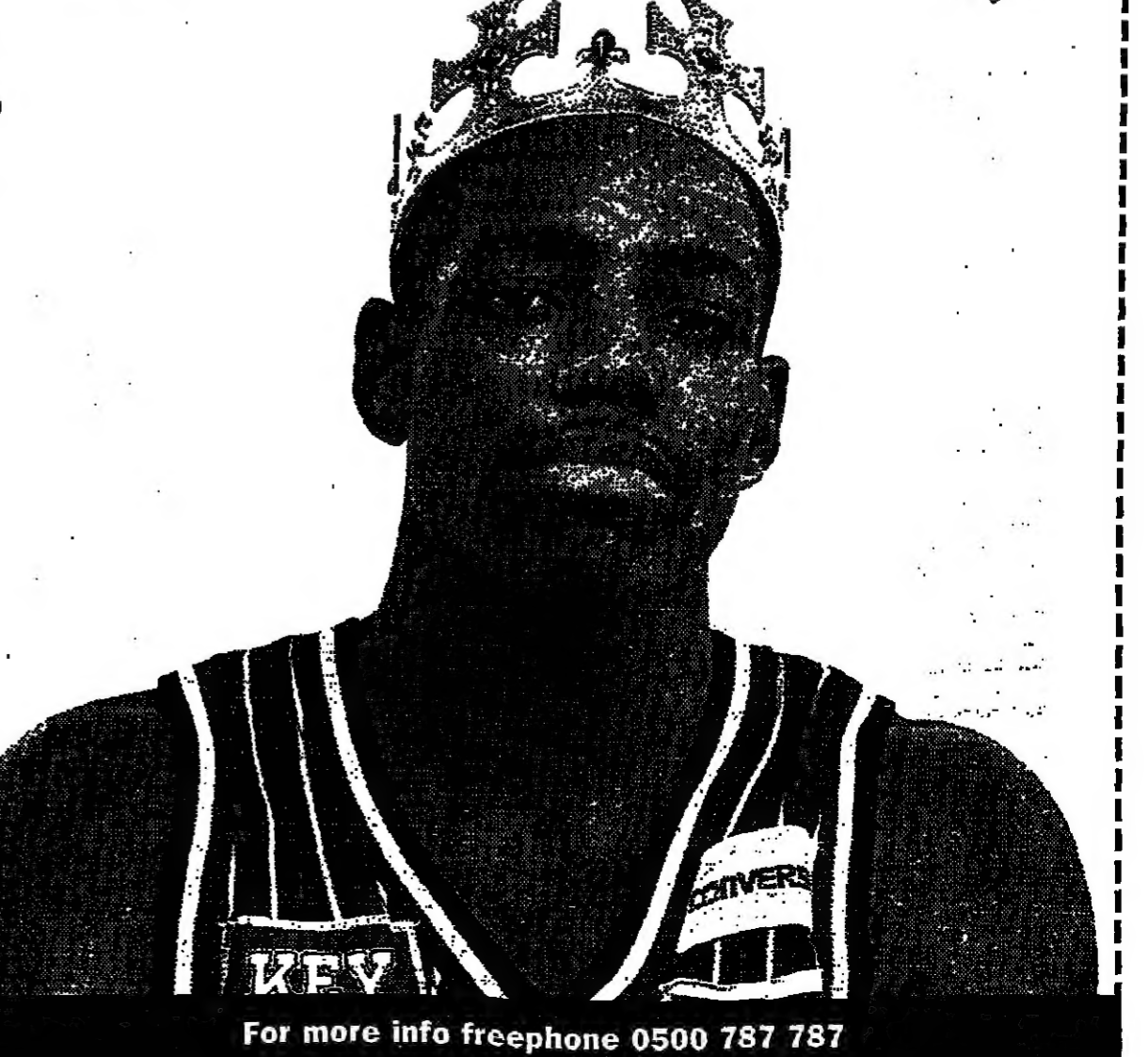
"A £14 million outlay could guarantee a jackpot, but not an exclusive jackpot win," a Camelot spokeswoman said. One rollover prize last January produced 133 jackpot winners, who each won just £122,510.

The lottery monitors sales patterns at all 26,000 outlets in the UK. Nothing suspicious has emerged. "If we noticed anything odd... we would stop it," the spokeswoman said. "Anyway, if the winning ticket is bought as part of an operation to cover every number, we are not liable to pay out." Some odds.

# Watch the Giants show the Royals who's king this Saturday.

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**Three Dublin contract-killer style assassinations in just one day prompted the government's justice minister, Nora Owen, to issue a statement in response to newspaper reports that the capital is "on the brink of mob war".**

David Sharrock

With parts of Scotland and North-east still without water some firms are forced to shut down but Government rules out immediate cash aid

# Insurers face huge burst pipes bill

Martin Weinwright and David Ward

**B** RITAIN'S battered insurance market is facing the new burden of an estimated £500 million damage caused by burst pipes and disrupted water supplies in the sudden new year thaw.

Continuing cut-offs in Scotland and the North-east threaten to push the cost of the chaos higher, with fish processing in Aberdeen, computer chip manufacturing in Strathclyde and small firms in Northumberland facing extended holidays or forced to suspend production.

The Government last night offered talks with local authorities on help for dealing with the clear-up, but ministers were cagey about

whether that would include substantial funding. Army tankers have been deployed to help supply parts of Scotland — working in tandem with loaned whisky lorries — and more than 30,000 people in the worst-affected areas are still without water after up to five days.

The Scottish Office minister, Raymond Robertson, offered emergency talks on a visit to Aberdeen, where fishing companies warned of "financial disaster" if the first market of the new year is unable to go ahead today. He agreed that financial help was "an issue which will have to be faced" but ruled out immediate talks on funds.

"We will discuss that, but the immediate priority is to get water supplies back to normal in homes, hospitals and industry."

Insurance offices in Scot-

**A** S THE row raged over the water companies' performance, it emerged last night that three of the directors of Northumbrian Water have received confirmation that they will share profits of over £1 million from their share options as a result of the successful French takeover bid for the firm, writes Michael White.

Lyonaise des Eaux's takeover is set to add £567,000 to the expected remuneration package of £205,000 for Northumbrian's chief executive, David Cranston, in 1996. Labour revealed last night. Analysis done for the shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, suggests that J.M. Taylor, the group finance director, will gain £492,238 as a result of executive share options, now that the Trade Secretary, Ian Lang,

has nodded through Lyonaise's bid.

For an executive director, Jon Hargreaves, the deal will be worth £277,112 in share options on top of his salary and performance-related bonus of up to 30 per cent. Since remuneration committees are meant to take into account "any significant issue concerning unacceptable quality of service", Mr Brown's team

will raise their concerns in the Finance Bill later this month.

The bid became unconditional on December 28 when the French firm, which already owns North East Water, announced it had received acceptances for its offer to buy 60 per cent of Northumbrian's capital. That clinched the £1 million share option prospect.

Ofwat is unlikely to find serious fault with emergency procedures.

Ofwat said that exceptional weather had caused the problems, although a detailed analysis of firms' responses would not be possible until after discussions later this month.

It is unlikely to pursue claims by Labour's spokes-

man on water, Frank Dobson, that staff cutbacks had left the companies unable to tackle the crisis properly.

Mr Dobson said: "The water companies have been getting rid of staff, at all sorts of levels and in all sorts of jobs, and I think that means that in crises like this one when it's all hands to the pumps, there are fewer hands

and things aren't being put right as quickly as they should be."

But Ofwat denied that there had been significant manpower reductions in the industry and said that shortage of staff had not been a problem in tackling leaks.

People affected by cut-offs will receive compensation payments of £10 per 24 hours without supply from the companies, which will be required to make the payments from profits and not by increasing customer charges.

The biggest payouts are expected in Ashington and Newbiggin on the Northumberland coast, where Northumbrian Water said yesterday that it could not guarantee all reconnections before the weekend.

Pressure is also likely to remain reduced today on parts of Tyneside and Wear-

side. The multiple cracking of feeder pipes — with no arterial mains affected — has largely affected Victorian systems which put their faith in cast iron.

Gradually being replaced by modern flexible plastic or ductile iron, the ancient pipes have been reliable workhorses but are vulnerable to extreme changes of temperature.

The Water Services Association said that temperatures in the North-east had gone from 10C to 3C on Monday night, imposing huge strains on the pipes and causing fracturing earth movements. The freeze had already expanded the water and contracted the metal, leading to cracks at vulnerable junctions.

Ofwat said last night that the situation was improving rapidly, except in the North-east, where progress was slower.

## Four stabbed in JobCentre attack

Gary Younge

**A** WOMAN, armed with knives and screwdrivers, yesterday rampaged through a JobCentre in south-east London, stabbing four people in an apparently motiveless attack.

Police arrested a 27-year-old local woman at the centre in connection with the stabbings, which left two people seriously injured. She is being held in hospital where she is receiving treatment for hand and wrist injuries incurred during the incident.

Police said there were no plans to either interview or charge her before today.

Police arrived at the scene in Bexleyheath shortly before 11am to find Simon Bridge, aged 24, with a large carving knife embedded in his head. Police said the blade had bounced off his skull and lodged in the scalp.

"It was sticking out at an angle. The man was calm but then he hadn't seen himself," said acting sergeant Ian Wheeler.

Mr Bridge, an unemployed

electrician, from Welling, south-east London, was taken to Queen Mary's hospital, Sidcup, where he was being kept overnight for observation.

His girlfriend, Tara Hill, aged 20, said after visiting him: "He told me he went to join the queue and a woman came from behind and attacked him."

"He said it didn't feel like someone was stabbing him in the head — more like someone punching him."

A 49-year-old man who worked in the Jobcentre was last night undergoing surgery for a "substantial" injury to his right arm.

Two women suffered minor head injuries — a 63-year-old member of staff was expected to be released from hospital yesterday evening while a member of the public, aged 34, was not detained after treatment.

A spokeswoman for Queen Mary's hospital said none of the injuries were thought to be life-threatening.

Witnesses said a woman wielding several weapons had first attacked members of the public, and then wandered through the building assault-

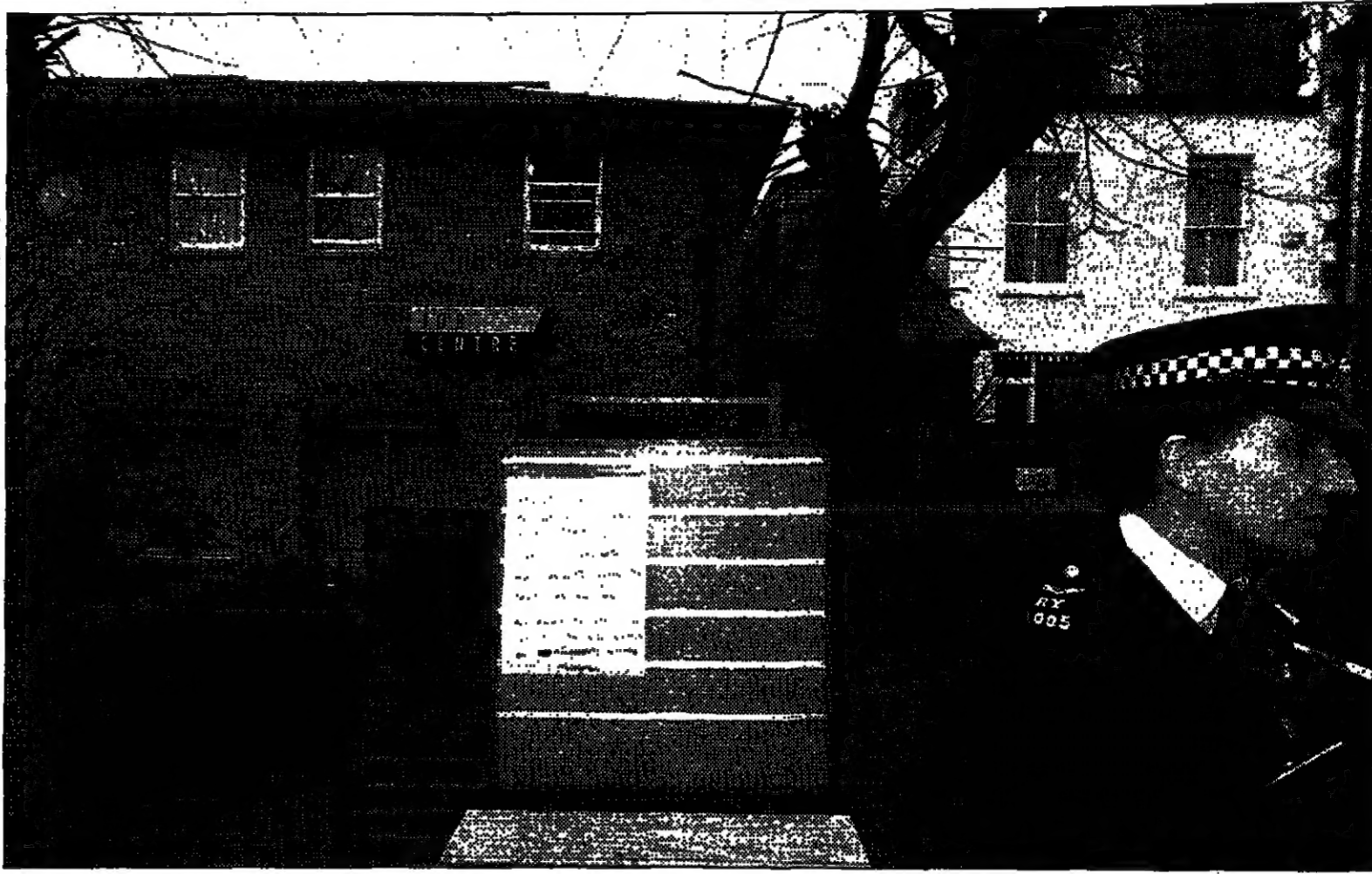
ing staff. "The second she got in people were running out. It was chaos. They were running out all over the street. The traffic was blocked," said Larry Halimus, a shop owner.

Superintendent Philip Selwood, commander of the Bexleyheath area, did not know if the woman was targeting anyone in particular and would not comment on suggestions that she had been resident in a mental institution.

Detectives also refused to comment on witness claims that the attacker had visited the JobCentre the previous day trying to obtain a Giro payment, and said they had yet to establish a motive.

Witnesses said that as the emergency services arrived the woman screamed abuse but then stood passively while the police handcuffed her and smiled as she was driven away.

Acting sergeant Wheeler said: "The woman had several weapons. I have seen at least two knives and two screwdrivers and I understand there may be more. When I arrived there were lots of knives and lots of blood."



The JobCentre in Bexleyheath where a woman wielding knives attacked several people, leaving two seriously injured. PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

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## Byelection battle commences

Prescott sets date for first of hoped-for poll victories

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

**L** ABOUR yesterday stepped up its pressure on John Major by announcing that it will hold a by-election in the safe Labour seat of Hemsworth in Yorkshire early next month.

The date was given by Labour's deputy leader, John Prescott, as he named its candidate for a second by-election, in Staffordshire South East, triggered by the death last month of the Conservative MP Sir David Lighthown.

Conservative sources said yesterday that the party planned to hold the by-election towards the end of March.

A clearer timetable for the two by-elections — which Labour intends to use further to undermine the Government in the wake of the defection of Emma Nicholson — could well galvanise the divided Conservatives — which Labour is rallying behind their leader.

Mr Prescott confirmed that Labour's Staffordshire candidate was Brian Jenkins, the 53-year-old leader of Tamworth borough council. He

fought the seat in the 1992 election and moved Labour from third to second place. Mr Jenkins, son of a coal miner, declared that he was "delighted and proud to fight for Labour".

Hemsworth was held for Labour by Derek Enright with a 22,075 majority until his death last November. As well as retaining this seat, Labour is expecting to overturn Sir David Lighthown's 7,192 majority in Staffordshire, shrinking the Government's majority to one.

However, Mr Prescott insists that Labour was not complacent. "At no time can we just rely on the unpopularity of the Tories," he said during a visit to party officials in Tamworth. "We must convince people that Labour offers a better future for them and their families."

Overseeing the Staffordshire campaign will be Labour leader Tony Blair's parliamentary private secretary, Bruce Grocott, MP for Wrexham, and Peter Snape (West Bromwich East), chairman of the West Midlands group of Labour MPs.

If the Tories lose the Staffordshire seat, they lose Tamworth. Now a sprawling outpost of Birmingham, Tamworth is the town that spawned the modern Conservative Party more than 150 years ago when Sir Robert Peel delivered his famous Tamworth manifesto.

Labour holds fire on Scargill despite calls for his expulsion

Michael White Political Editor

**L** ABOUR last night adopted a wait-and-see attitude towards Arthur Scargill's threatened left-wing breakaway, after it emerged that his new party's draft constitution would effectively exclude many potential allies on the left.

Reports that the constitution of the Socialist Labour Party will enjoin members not to "join or support" other political groupings surprised some leftwingers and drew derision from mainstream supporters of Tony Blair's New Labour modernisation.

Mr Blair's deputy, John Prescott, said Mr Scargill's efforts were "a lot of huffing and puffing".

But Labour officials refused to be stampeded by calls to expel Mr Scargill. National Union of Mineworkers' leader, Ian Breaching, a fundamental organisational rule — enforced against Militant in the 1980s — that members

of parties within Labour, or of avowed parties which fight elections against it, should be kicked out.

"People are entitled to be involved in talks," a senior official observed, while confirming that if Mr Scargill and his allies went ahead with the SLP launch in May he would effectively "count himself out".

Labour MP, Iles David Winnick, whose local socialist group in Walsall was recently expelled, had called for Mr Scargill's expulsion. Yesterday such frustration was echoed by Kim Howells, MP for Pontypool, a former NUM official and opponent of Mr Scargill over the 1994/95 miners' strike.

But Campaign Group MP Alice Mahon voiced the regrets of other leftwing MPs that he intends to leave. "I think there is only one party for socialists and that's the Labour Party," I said on BBC Radio 4's World at One.

On the same programme, Mr Howells called Mr Scargill a megalomaniac who should be expelled. If his party goes ahead, he predicted it would boost Labour by becoming "a magnet for all sorts of nutters".

Yesterday's reports describe a constitution which includes Labour's abandoned Clause 4 on common ownership.

## Royal Opera move in jeopardy

Michael Ellison Arts Correspondent

**S**OME of the world's leading opera singers were feeling the effects of at least one of life's most stressful experiences last night when their attempt to move house fell through.

First the Royal Opera House decided to decamp temporarily from its Covent Garden home for redevelopment work, for which it has received a £55 million lottery grant. The company decided to move to a £27 million theatre to be built south of Tower Bridge for two seasons from September 1997.

Yesterday Greater London

Enterprise, which heads the theatre, said it had failed to find a second partner in time to build at Tower Bridge and meet the opera house's deadline.

"There must be a chance that the theatre won't be built at all now, but we still anticipate that the thing will go forward," said Martin Large, joint managing director of GLE properties.

It had been hoped that Disney would take over the theatre when the opera house returned to Covent Garden at the turn of the century, but it has turned it down.

"The opera house will have to find something else for a relatively short period of

time, perhaps three months, to cover for the delay or find somewhere else for the whole period," Mr Large said.

The GLE was talking to several other potential tenants in the fields of commerce and entertainment.

Keith Cooper, the opera house's director of corporate affairs, said: "We don't feel so much let down as realistic. The GLE appeared to be very optimistic about the possibility of finding a second tenant but we have a rigid timetable which will involve us in considerable cost if there is a delay."

"If you take a product out of the market place for even a short time it's bloody difficult to re-establish yourself, and

you incur incredibly high redundancy and start-up costs."

The opera house was looking at touring and the possibility of performing in a number of London venues, such as the Albert Hall, the Royal Festival Hall and Sadler's Wells, if a single base could not be found.

The only London theatre available from September 1997 was the Dominion. "But only one of the productions in our current repertoire would fit on its stage, the auditorium is inadequate and so are the sight-lines," said Mr Cooper.

"It's all right for a West End show but it's not great for opera."

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1520 2011

Country ranks 35th in education table among developed states

# Plan to lift UK from place as 'dunce of the world'

Donald MacLeod  
Education Correspondent

A 10-YEAR plan to lift Britain from its place as the dunce of the developed world was outlined yesterday by the Government's former senior education adviser. Sir Geoffrey Holland, former permanent secretary at the Department for Education, proposed a £1 billion programme to raise achievement over the next 10 years. He said Britain had slipped from 14th to 18th in a league of global competitiveness because of the quality of the work force and the inadequate education system. In terms of skill the work force had slipped from 21st to 24th, while in education the UK was ranked 35th in the world despite spending more than many competitors, he told the North of England education conference in Gateshead.

**'We are not well equipped for the 21st century, where survival depends on applied intelligence. It is time for a national crusade to raise achievement'**

With two-thirds of public spending going to social security, education was fighting for scraps from the table. "The central fact of life is that there will not be great additional resources for education available from the public purse." Despite £27 billion spent on education and £35 billion spent on training by employers, Britain was slipping behind the competition. "We are hurrying now towards a 21st century in which the jobs available will be jobs that robots cannot do and where our survival, both economically and socially, depends on applied intelligence, enterprise, initiative, flexibility and ability to survive rapid change. "We are not well equipped and it is time for a national crusade to raise achievement all round," Sir Geoffrey said.

He said A levels should be scrapped as no longer relevant. Vocational and academic qualifications should be amalgamated and taken whenever candidates reached a certain standard rather than at a certain age, to get rid of the stigma of failure. He urged schools and local authorities to dismiss bad teachers and tackle the 30 per cent of lessons found to be unsatisfactory by inspectors over many years. "We should expect more of teachers, pay them better, value them more highly in terms of status... but simply not be willing to tolerate poor performance." In turn, teachers, heads and governors should be freed from the deluge of paperwork. "We are drowning in paperwork and over-regulation. We need a crusade, from government and quangos downwards, to cut administration

paperwork by 50 per cent." Sir Geoffrey said there was a consensus on education in the country and among politicians, although it was obscured by pre-election rhetoric. "This is the moment for us all to come together in a big push. If we don't do it in the next 10 years time will have run out," he said. His proposal to "unhook" qualifications from age-related dates and allow students to achieve given standards at their own pace is likely to prove controversial. So is his suggestion that a graduate tax be used to fund all university and further education students to release more money for inner-city schools and nurseries. ● David Blunkett plans today to steal a march on the Government by putting information technology at the heart of Labour's plans for improving standards in schools, writes John Carvel. In his first contribution to the party's 1996 education standards "crusade", he will tell the Gateshead conference that access to computers could revolutionise teaching of languages and help motivate under-achieving boys in the inner cities.

## Shepherd 'heading far to right of Patten' on pupil selection

John Carvel  
Education Editor

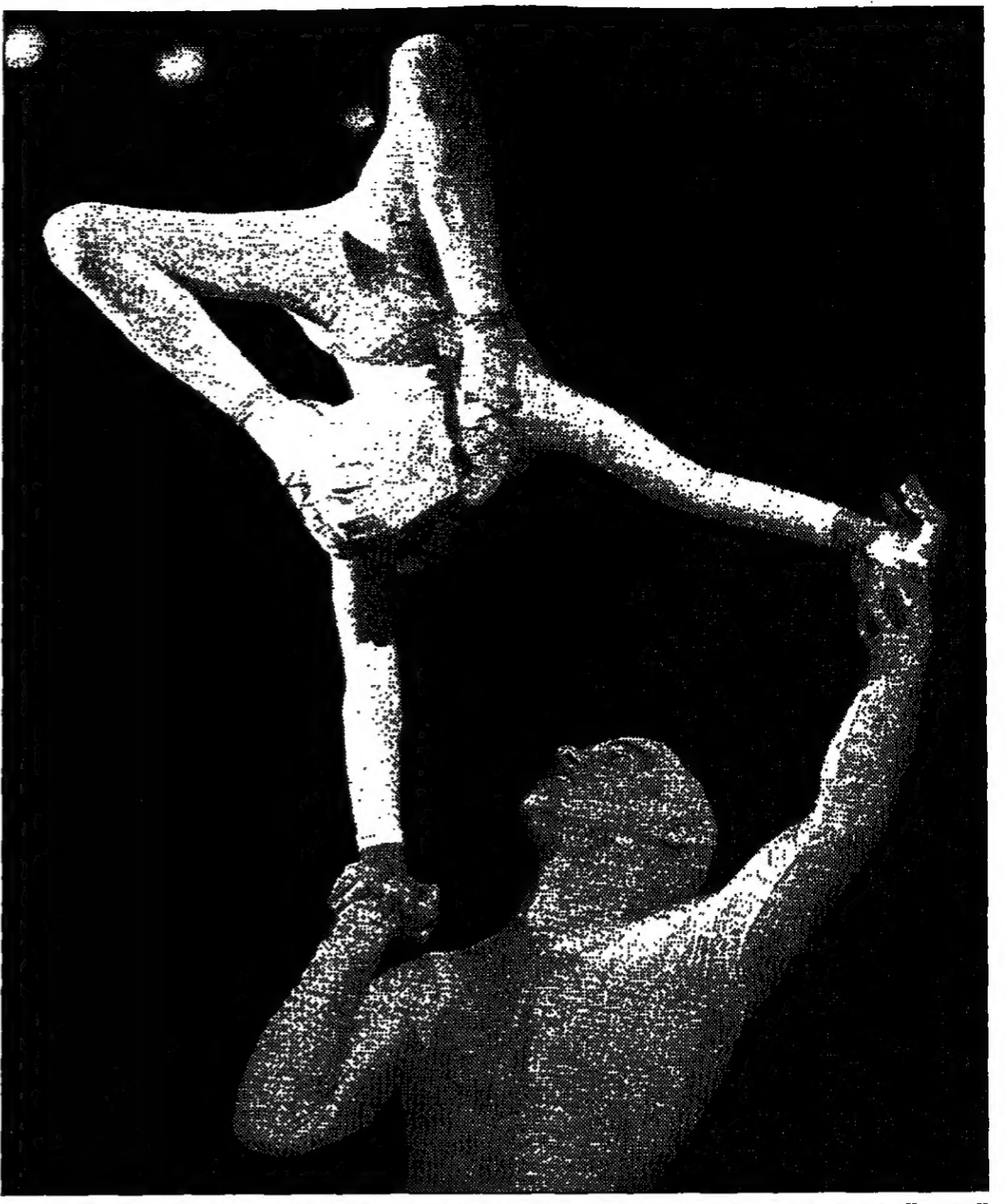
LABOUR yesterday accused Gillian Shepherd, Education and Employment Secretary, of lurching far to the right of her predecessor, John Patten, in advancing proposals to allow state schools to select pupils by interviewing parents and children. "Parents will no longer choose their school; instead, schools will pick the parents and pupils," said David Blunkett, shadow education secretary. "This abandonment of parental choice is a last desperate lurch to the right in a bid by Mrs Shepherd to save face for the Prime Minister." He was responding to the Guardian's disclosure that Mrs Shepherd was preparing to publish a consultation paper next week proposing to



David Blunkett... Minister 'trying to save face for PM'

tion by the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches was forcing Mrs Shepherd to scrap Mr Patten's plan to allow church schools to opt for grant-maintained status without a parental ballot. Lack of interest among banks and building societies had obliged her to postpone plans to privatise student loans. "Now Gillian Shepherd is even abandoning John Patten's guidelines on admissions to salvage something of the Prime Minister's inept Birmingham speech." Mr Major told grant-maintained school heads at Birmingham in September that they needed greater freedom on admissions policy "to make sensible choices between pupils in the way you think best". Mrs Shepherd's proposal would allow all state schools to use reports or interviews as part of their formal admis-

sion procedures, although in practice the selective approach is likely to be taken up mainly by the 1,100 grant-maintained schools. Although Mr Patten was considered right wing on educational theories, he warned schools in 1993 against using interviews to screen admissions, lest they be "vulnerable to criticism that judgments about a child's suitability were based on social, ethnic or academic considerations." Schools were finding it harder to persuade parents to pay for essential books and equipment and not just optional extras, the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations said yesterday. Some parents had been asked to contribute to teachers' salaries to avoid staff cuts during last year's squeeze on budgets. Leader comment, page 8



Air and graceful... Performers of the Cirque du Soleil, which opens its show Saltimbanco at the Royal Albert Hall tomorrow with its blend of performance art, theatre, circus and hi-tech arena rock and roll. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ANGLIS

## 'Peg libel awards to injury payouts'

John Ezzard

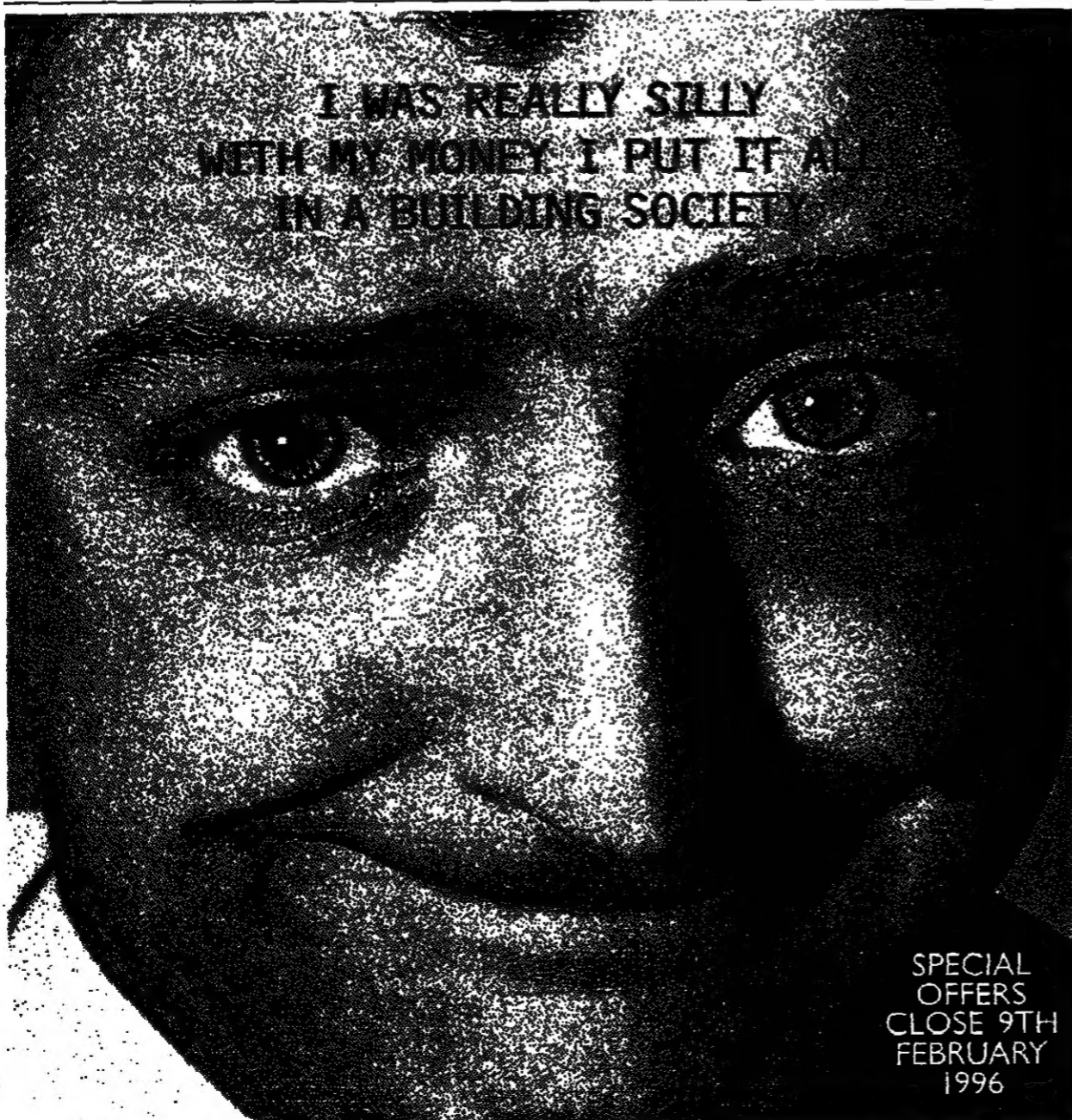
MOVES were announced yesterday aimed at reforming a legal system in which a millionaire pop star can receive £250,000 damages for remarks about his diet while an accident victim gets £22,500 for the trauma of losing an eye. The Law Commission accepted that compensation paid for the suffering caused by serious personal injuries had fallen behind inflation and should be increased. It recommended that judges should urge libel juries to use these payments as a guideline, and suggested a £125,000 limit on defamation awards, close to the ceiling for personal injury awards. In a consultation paper, it said: "A libel plaintiff may recover a much larger sum for an injury to his reputation - which may prove transient - than the damages awarded for the pain and suffering to the victim of an industrial accident who has lost an eye." "We accept the force of [public] criticism that it is wrong for the law to appear to

### Damages

LOSS of one eye (minimum recommended compensation): 1960s, £2,750; 1994 (with inflation), £25,394; 1994 (actual), £22,500. Loss of taste and smell: 1960s, around £2,000; 1994 (with inflation), £18,293; 1994 (actual), £16,000. Loss of main hand: 1960s, £2,500; 1994 (with inflation), £23,000-£35,000; 1994 (actual), £25,493. Leg injury reducing mobility: 1960s, £3,000; 1994 (with inflation), £30,188;

1994 (actual), £22,500-£32,500. Paraplegia: 1978, £38,000; 1994 (with inflation), £104,165; 1994 (actual), £95,000. Quadriplegia: 1985, £75,000; 1994 (with inflation), £114,502; 1994 (actual), £105,000-£125,000. Very severe brain injury: 1961, £15,000; 1994 (with inflation), £171,833; 1994 (actual), £105,000-£125,000. Racial discrimination awards: £30,000 for being called an "Irish prat"; £15,000 for being called "an idle black bastard".

Libel jury awards: 1989, £1.5m for Lord Aldington against Count Nikolai Tolstoy and his publisher; 1991, £250,000 for Esther Rantzen against Mirror Group... Newspapers (reduced to £110,000 on appeal); 1994, £1.4m for a yacht firm against Yachting World (settled for £760,000 after appeal); 1995, £750,000 for Graham Soumess against Mirror Group Newspapers (settled for £100,000 after appeal); December 1995, appeal court reduced Elton John's £350,000 Sunday Mirror damages to £75,000 after comparison with personal injury damages - anticipating the commission's recommendation. The highest personal injury award for non-financial loss is £130,000 to a brain-damaged woman who has lost the ability to walk, cry, laugh or speak but is fully conscious and aware of her situation. The Government set up the Law Commission 30 years ago to recommend legal reforms.



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## Jobs shake-up in Whitehall

Richard Norton-Taylor and Ian Black

BRITAIN'S key intelligence co-ordinating job is to go to the chief policy adviser to Sir Leon Brittan, the UK's senior European Commissioner, in a wide-ranging shake-up of Whitehall posts. Colin Budd, a career diplomat, is to return from Brussels to replace Paul Lever as chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee. Mr Lever becomes economic director at the Foreign Office with special responsibility for Britain's relations with its European Union partners. Mr Budd, aged 50, served in the British embassy in Bonn before moving to Brussels as chief of cabinet to Sir Leon in 1993. He will also have responsibilities in the running of the Cabinet's important overseas and defence policy committees. The intelligence committee assesses raw intelligence and sets priorities for the Secret Intelligence Service, better known as MI6, and for GCHQ, the Government's electronic eavesdropping centre. Mr Lever, respected by ministers for his hard-headed approach to difficult problems, will be responsible for drawing up options and negotiating tactics as the Government prepares to face federalist demands from EU partners in the run-up to the inter-governmental conference later this year.

He replaces Michael Jay, who is to be appointed ambassador to Paris, another key post in the EU context. Christopher Meyer, a German-speaking diplomat who is currently John Major's chief press spokesman, is widely tipped to become ambassador in Bonn. Meanwhile, Roderic Lyne, a private secretary in Downing Street, who played a key role in negotiations with Dublin over the Irish peace talks, is leaving to take up a job with British Gas. He will be succeeded by John Holmes, another Foreign Office official. The moves, some of which are expected to be officially announced next week, leave a question mark over the future of Pauline Neville-Jones, made a Dame in the new year's honours list. She is to be replaced as the Foreign Office's political director by Jeremy Greenstock, her deputy. Dame Pauline, aged 56, who was Britain's representative on the now defunct Bosnia contact group, had hoped to be given the Paris embassy. ● David Gore-Booth has been appointed British High Commissioner to India in succession to Sir Nicholas Fenn, who is retiring from the Diplomatic Service, the Foreign Office announced yesterday. Mr Gore-Booth, British ambassador to Saudi Arabia, is being replaced in Riyadh by Andrew Green, currently in charge of Middle East policy in London.

## Dog attack boy dies of injuries

David Ward

A 11-YEAR-OLD boy who was maulled by two dogs on Christmas Eve died in hospital yesterday. David Kearney, from Darwen, Lancashire, had been on a life support system at Booth Hall children's hospital in Manchester, after surgery on his face and having part of his left leg amputated. David's parents, Keith and Margaret Kearney, spent Christmas at his bedside. A family friend said: "I knew how badly he was injured but they had been hoping he would pull through. Everyone is terribly upset." Mr Kearney said that, after discussions with doctors, he and his wife had decided to switch off the life support machine. "We have lost our son and we now just want to be left alone to grieve."

In addition to needing extensive surgery, David had also been receiving kidney dialysis and had been fighting the threat of pneumonia. The boy had climbed over a fence near his home into the yard where the dogs were kept. His sister, Amanda, aged 14, said: "One of the dogs came over. He tried to make friends with it but it went for his shoulder and head." His mother said afterwards that his face was blown up like a balloon, and he was badly marked she hardly recognised him. The dogs' owner, Kevin Taylor, a builder, asked for them to be destroyed. "They are not guard dogs trained to attack people," he said. "They are pets but they are also here to look after my house." Police have questioned Mr Turner and a report has been sent to the Crown Prosecution Service.

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# Christians bear another cross

Converted untouchables are claiming the same special rights as other disadvantaged Indians, writes **Suzanne Goldenberg** in New Delhi

**W**ITH competition fierce for university places and government jobs, Indian Church leaders are demanding special treatment for their congregations, on the grounds that they face discrimination.

Positive discrimination, known as "reservation", is a highly emotive issue in India, where liberalisation has intensified the struggle for economic survival.

It promises to be central to the next general election, expected in April. Muslims — and now Christians — clam-

ouring for the rights the constitution gives to disadvantaged Hindus.

More than 40 years ago the constitution set aside a proportion of university places and civil service jobs for Dalits (formerly untouchable) Hindus and tribal peoples.

The reservation system originally applied only to Hindus but under pressure from other communities the government has extended it to Buddhists and Sikhs of Dalit origin. In the past 10 years it has come to include other lower caste Hindus besides Dalits. State governments in the south now allocate more

than 80 per cent of government jobs by quota.

The Churches began demanding their share in November with a two-week campaign unsuccessfully calling on parliament to consider the plight of Dalit converts to Christianity.

"We are in a society, we cannot escape society," said Father Devadhas, director of social work at New Delhi's Sacred Heart Cathedral. "The Church cannot play a big role in economic development. We are a secular state, and it's the government's job."

The Church argues that even though Dalits embraced

Christianity many years ago, they have not been able to escape caste prejudice, so they should be entitled to the same benefits as Dalit converts to Buddhism and Sikhism and all disadvantaged Hindus.

Leaders of the affirmative action protest will meet this month to decide whether to issue a call from the pulpits in favour of a specific party at the elections.

Meanwhile a black flag has been flying over the Sacred Heart high above the heads of the little girls dressed like wedding cakes and the street vendors who normally crowd Delhi's churches at this time of year.

"For 45 years we waited, we tolerated. But now the Dalit Christians themselves are taking up the leadership. I don't think we can resist this," said Father Charles De

Souza, the leader of Delhi's 85,000 Roman Catholics.

In a Christmas message, the interdenominational group campaigning for the Dalit Christians said: "The Christians of India had expected a happier Christmas. They trusted in the parliamentary democracy and placed their faith in the words of honourable men like the prime minister of India and hoped that a bill to right the 45-year-old wrong of denying the Christians of Scheduled Caste [Dalit] origin their constitutional rights will be introduced. However, the message seems to be... their voice won't be heard."

Dalit Christians received a further setback when Mother Teresa, who had appeared at the launch of their campaign, withdrew her support after being criticised by the right-

wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party.

The ruling Congress (I) party, although it is the traditional repository of the minority vote, is wary of endorsing the Dalit Christian demand for fear of alienating Hindu voters. But a regional party has already promised to extend the quota system to Muslims, who are economically worse off than the Hindu majority.

Although the Catholic Church is fighting for the 16 per cent of its congregation who are Dalits or descendants of Dalits, it has not yet erased caste discrimination in its own house.

Some churches, in the south especially, still seat Dalits in separate pews, and have segregated cemeteries. There are few Dalits in the upper ranks of the hierarchy.

## News in brief

### Dini faces threat from Italian right

**THE** Italian right yesterday undertook to press for the fall of Lamberto Dini's non-party "government of experts", but stopped short of moving a motion of no confidence.

Parliamentary party leaders decided that a debate on the country's political future, called for by President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, should begin next Tuesday. It is likely to take up to three days. With Italy occupying the presidency of the European Union, the proceedings will be watched with keen interest in Brussels.

The chances of Mr Dini's unelected administration surviving next week's debate receded last night when two leftwing parties, Communist Refoundation and the Greens, called for its removal. If they were to vote with a united right, they could bring down the government. — *John Hooper, Rome.*

### Black Watch-Triad link denied

**THE** British Forces Hong Kong Garrison yesterday denied that investigations are under way into links between soldiers serving in the Black Watch Regiment and organised crime syndicates.

"No soldiers from that regiment have been brought back to Hong Kong for interview in connection with that or any other investigation. No certificate of immunity from prosecution has been issued to any member of the Black Watch by the police, who have no right to do so. We have today confirmed that the Director of Public Prosecutions, who does have this power, has also not issued any such certificates of immunity," a statement said.

### Drug baron 'is co-operating'

**THE** world's most wanted heroin trafficker, Khun Sa, is co-operating with Burmese government forces occupying his former headquarters near the border with Thailand, hardening suspicions he has cut a deal with Rangoon's ruling generals to let him go into retirement.

Khun Sa was reported by sources linked to his Mong Tai Army yesterday to have remained in Homong supervising the handover of weapons to government troops. "The traitor is being well protected by Burmese troops after persuading us to surrender to them," one former MTA officer commented.

The Burmese government and state-run media have made no mention of an event Rangoon residents expected them to trumpet as a victory. — *Nick Cumming-Brace, Bangkok.*

### Perry offers kidnap help

**THE** United States defence secretary, William Perry, gave a guarded promise yesterday of Nato help in the peace crisis posed by the Bosnian Serbs' seizure of 16 Muslims travelling through Serb areas of Sarajevo.

After meeting the Bosnian president, Alija Izetbegovic, and commanders of the Nato-led implementation force (IFOR) in Sarajevo, Mr Perry said it was important that the proposed United Nations-controlled police force should be established "as soon as possible", adding: "In the meantime, Nato's force will do what it can to assist."

Mr Perry had earlier told reporters it was not Nato's job to be a police force, implying that the incident was seen as a criminal rather than a military matter.

The Bosnian Serb authorities refused to release the 16 and told Nato that some of them might be tried.

Meanwhile, two British soldiers were injured when they stumbled on a landmine or an unexploded shell in Sarajevo yesterday, an I-FOR spokesman said. — *Reuters, Sarajevo.*



Hostile elements... Russians struggle in severe weather to burn off and clean up a 1,000-tonne oil spill from a river-bed pipeline in the central republic of Yashkiriya

### Agency banned 'for criticism'

**THE** charity Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders), one of 43 aid agencies expelled from Rwanda, said yesterday that its French wing was thrown out for reporting atrocities committed by the authorities.

MSF's president, Philippe Biherson, told a news conference that the "real reason was... our testimony on the serious attacks against the people we were working with".

The Rwandan government ordered the foreign aid agencies out of the country last month on grounds they had failed to register and said they had to leave their equipment behind. Police confiscated 16 of their ambulances and other vehicles.

Mr Biherson said MSF's French wing had been working with Hutu refugees. "Not a day went by without our hearing testimony about people disappearing, being assassinated, or being forced to leave the country again in fear for their lives and those of their families." — *Reuters, Paris.*

### Ploughman's hunch

**FLOUGHING** at night can dramatically reduce the number of weeds competing with farm crops, a US government study said.

"We have seen reductions in weed emergence as great as 80 per cent" after ploughing in the dark, said Douglas Bahler of the agricultural department's Agricultural Research Service. "Generally reductions are 50 to 60 per cent."

Initial results are confirmed, nighttime ploughing "has the potential to reduce reliance on chemicals in weed management," Mr Bahler told Agricultural Research magazine.

The theory is simple enough: light penetrates the soil as it is being turned, allowing buried weed seeds to break out of dormancy. With some types of weeds, denying light at the time of ploughing reduces sprouting. — *AP, Washington.*

## US embassies feel the pinch

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

**THE** United States budget crisis escalated from a national to an international emergency yesterday, as Day 19 of the partial government shutdown prompted US officials abroad to deny that America had become a banana republic, unable to pay its bills.

As President Clinton and Republican congressional leaders began yet another round of talks, their failure to agree on a budget plan threatened key operations abroad as well as essential services at home.

The state department reported near-chaos as cash-starved embassies around the world were forced to scale back their activities.

Vietnam has threatened to cut off electricity to the US embassy in Hanoi because of an unpaid bill for \$1,500 (\$1,000). US diplomats in Moscow have dipped into a charity fund to pay local workers, and embassy officials in Havana are without drinking water — after the local supply company cancelled all deliveries until it is paid.

"We just don't have any cash," said Richard Moose, an undersecretary at the state department — one of nine government departments which have still not had their 1996 budgets approved.

The affected government agencies have had to get by with no money and skeleton staffing. More than 200,000 federal workers have been sent home without pay, while 500,000 more have been required to work for free.

Resentment at home has boiled over, with vital services, including environmental clean-up teams and benefits offices, suspended. But overseas the shutdown has created huge embarrassment.

At the American embassy in Paris, usually a social whirl, the unprecedented

shutdown has forced the cancellation of all entertainment. Ambassador and former Washington *grande dame* Pamela Harriman has even been barred from travelling to routine ceremonies.

Similar belt-tightening has been imposed at the US embassy in London, with a pay and expenses freeze in force.

House Republicans yesterday refused to back a Senate move to release temporary funds to reopen the federal government while talks continue. Radical House members said they wanted to "stay the course" and use the shutdown as a source of pressure on Mr Clinton.

At issue are two conflicting

### US diplomats in Moscow dipped into charity funds to pay local staff

plans to balance the federal budget by the year 2002.

The Republican plan features a \$245 billion tax cut which Mr Clinton rejects, along with increases in the premiums pensioners pay for their health insurance. Republicans say Mr Clinton's plan spends too much on education and environmental programmes.

Public employees say they are feeling direct hardship. Businesses which depend on government workers are also feeling the squeeze, along with 300,000 applicants for passports which cannot be issued. A backlog of 30,000 visa applications by non-Americans is growing daily.

The US budget deadlock could keep Brazil out of next week's Gold Cup football tournament in Los Angeles. US consulates are refusing to issue the players with visas because of the cutback in services worldwide, the Brazilian Soccer Federation said.



Lucky dip... A Tokyo bargain hunter buys a fukubukuro (lucky bag) filled with cut-price goods. It is a tradition for Japanese stores to sell the bags to launch the new year's business. This department store sold 5,000 of them yesterday at 285 apiece

## English knight errant drew wine from the Dragon hills

Seth Falcon in Shazikou

**THE** craggy hills around the little town of Shazikou are called the Nine Dragons. For centuries peasants have struggled to grow grain on their slopes.

But some have found a new job: they grow grapes for a winery that produces some of the best wine in China.

The wine-makers whose bottles of Chardonnay and Riesling are carried by van down the winding roads

say they owe their fortune to the efforts of a stubborn Englishman who first dug his spade into this lime-heavy soil 13 years ago.

Michael Parry did not live to see their success. His £600,000 investment bankrupted him, and in 1991 he died of cancer.

"He was a man who could not be stopped," said Wu Lixiu, the company's chief wine-taster. "He had an idea and he worked at it. We owe everything to him."

Wine is only beginning to

gain popularity with the Chinese who, until recently, preferred a 100-proof sorghum-based alcohol once described as tasting like aviation fuel.

Nevertheless, the 100,000 cases that the Huadong Winery is producing this year falls short of demand.

Mr Wu — who did not even know wine was made from grapes before he was asked for a job at Huadong — says: "If we educate people about wine, they will drink it — Mr Parry always said that."

Parry, who went to Asia in 1973 as an accountant for a British insurance company, first visited China in the late 1970s after becoming a distributor of wine and spirits.

"When you have 1,300 wines and spirits in your portfolio, it's natural to think about starting your own vineyard," said Gabriel Tam, Parry's former partner, who now runs Huadong. "Everyone thinks about it. Michael Parry actually did it."

Parry chose Shazikou —

25 miles from the east coast city of Qingdao, famous for the beer it exports all over the world — because the limey soil and south-facing slopes favour grapevines.

When he arrived in 1982 he found hundreds of plots farmed individually by peasants. Persuading them to grow grapes instead of other crops was Mr Tam's job, and it took time.

"He was a big man, with a huge belly, and he looked out of place here," Mr Tam said. "He didn't speak the language, and knew nothing

about Chinese culture. There were a lot of conflicts. But he always fought on."

Parry died in Hong Kong in 1991. His ashes were buried on the hill behind the winery and farm workers still tend his grave.

Since then the business has flourished. Rows of vines stretch into the distance, surrounded by apple orchards, and the seasons bring ritual plantings and harvests that enrich the farm workers. — *New York Times.*

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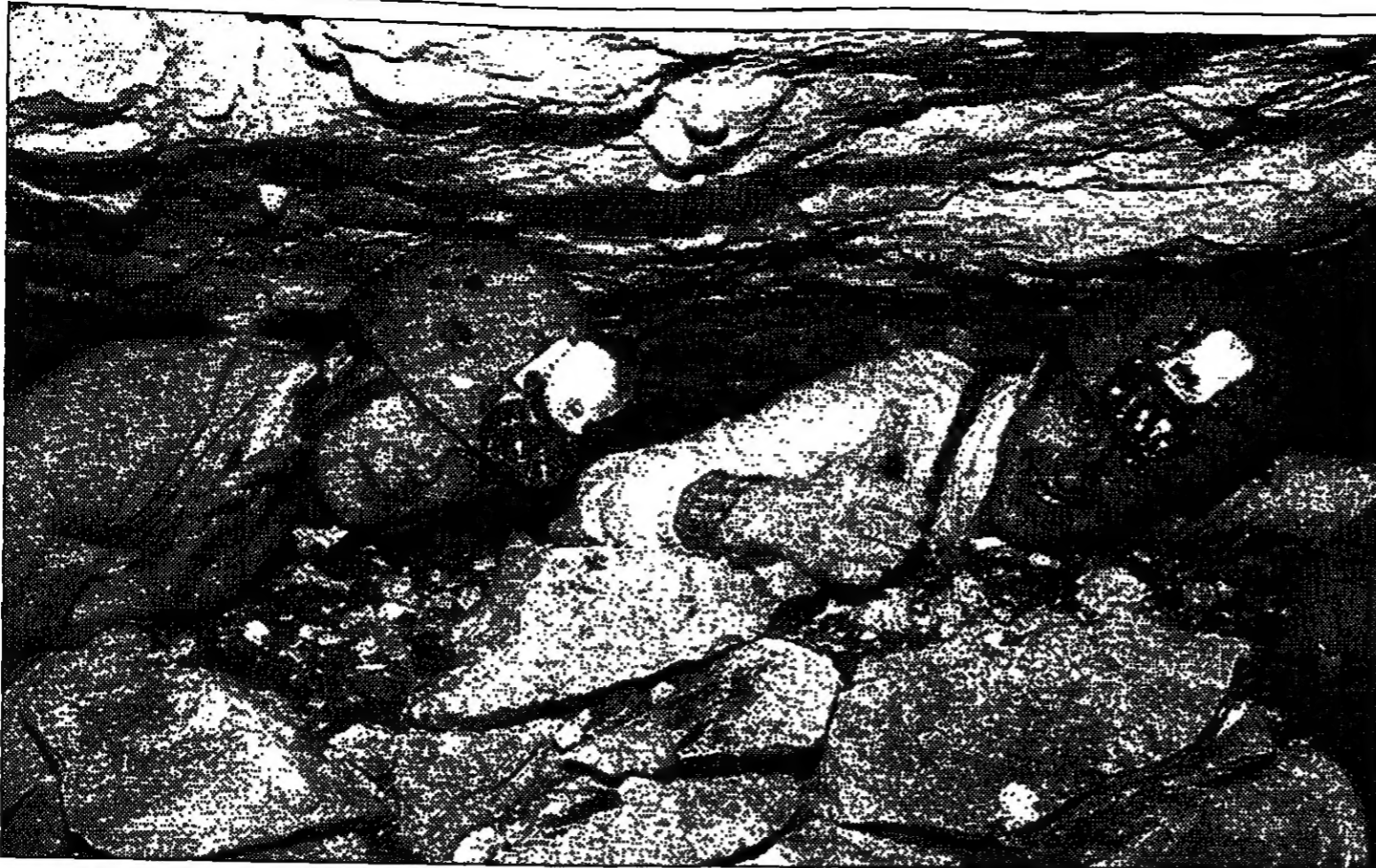
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Beneath Arras... Potholers Jannick Roy (left) and Pascal Barrier prepare for 60 days under the north-eastern French town. PHOTOGRAPH: GERARD CERLES

### Potholers aim to ferret out secrets of war

#### Eyewitness

#### Alex Duval Smith in Arras

NO ONE in the brick hungalows of Arras's sleepy suburbs has ever given much thought to the manhole cover outside No 2 Rue de l'Abbé Lemire. But today it will be levered off to reveal a conduit to a historical time warp.

Two French potholing enthusiasts are to spend the next 60 days exploring a network of tunnels which allowed Commonwealth troops to launch one of the most spectacular assaults of the first world war.

Jannick Roy and Pascal Barrier are to stay underground until March 4 to become the first people since 1917 to explore an estimated six miles of chalk tunnels and quarries which enabled the Battle of Arras.

Mr Roy, aged 31, and Mr Barrier, aged 30, will look for graffiti and everyday items left behind by up to 25,000 Commonwealth soldiers who spent six months tunnelling beneath the trenches.

Yesterday, off below Rue de l'Abbé Lemire, the two men were setting up their base camp in a 25ft-high chalk chamber: two tents, tinned

food, a camping stove, a mountain bike, a Yamaha keyboard, 300 litres of water, 20 litres of wine and a hairdryer.

Mr Barrier said: "The humidity down here is above 60 per cent so we shall use the hairdryer to dry our clothes. Jannick has highly developed culinary tastes so we are running an electricity cable down for his freezer."

In a dark recess a few feet from the men's tents, archaeologist Alain Jacques was providing a historical perspective. "In the 17th century this chamber was a quarry

On April 9, 1917, the tunnelers — known as "hantans" because of their small size — blasted their way out of the ground for a surprise attack at Tilloy-les-Mofflaines which forced the Germans to retreat six miles.

Masterminded by Generals Allenby and Byng, it was the most spectacular Allied breakthrough of 1917 but it nearly failed, said Mr Jacques. "Even though the troops laid railway lines, the tunnelling took six months."

"In February 1917, the Germans regrouped, retreating from the line for which the New Zealand tunnellers were heading. This meant their effort was abandoned and all soldiers were sent up to the British artery, known as the Saint Sauveur tunnel, which emerges at Tilloy-les-Mofflaines," said Mr Jacques.

The archaeologist, who has provided the potholers with their only map — provided by the British in 1930 — pointed to a six-inch lump object on the ground: a strap from a British officer's boot.

"The caves are strewn with artefacts. The potholers have already found several regimental coats of arms, etched into the walls," he said. He pointed to a dark recess which appears to have been a rubbish and rubble tip.

"Among rusty cans and burners was a bottle marked SRD. He said: "The men spent eight hours here and eight hours in the trenches. Before going above ground they were given drinks of 'Special Russian Department' — very potent rum. Working conditions

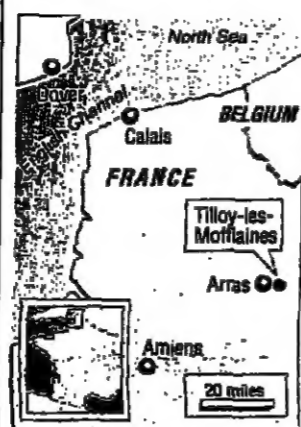
down here were probably dreadful. If the men had been discovered by the Germans they would have been gassed."

A number of Arras's quarries were subsequently turned into wine cellars. The constant temperature below ground is 11°C — ideal for storing wine and maturing cheese.

The initiative and funding for the two potholers comes from Arras council.

Spokesman Philippe Garcia said: "It is costing us £100,000 (£12,500) ... If the tunnels and quarries are found to be in good condition, there is a great deal of tourist potential there."

And he sent out a plea to British war veterans. "Hardly anything is known about the conditions in which the troops operated. We would dearly love to hear from anyone who was connected with the Battle of Arras."



providing stone for the Flemish-style houses of Arras.

"In 1917, New Zealand soldiers who dug tunnels between the city's abandoned quarries named each after towns and cities back home. This is Nelson," said Mr Jacques, aged 40, pointing to the word carved in the wall.

### British Euro-scepticism 'not main threat to EU'

## Delors warns of Paris-Bonn rift

Paul Webster in Paris

THE threat of a split between France and Germany was the real danger to Europe's future, rather than a crisis in relations with Britain, the former French European Commission president, Jacques Delors, said yesterday.

Mr Delors, who turned down a chance of becoming the Socialist presidential candidate last year, appeared in Europe in the weekly, his analysis of French policy implicitly included recent decisions by Mr Chirac to suspend the Schengen agreement to end border controls and his contemptuous rejection of EU condemnation of French nuclear tests.

without fall attached to a European Germany and not a German Europe, who stepped down as Commission president last year, did not mention the present French government during a review of a pessimistic book on Europe in the weekly, his analysis of French policy implicitly included recent decisions by Mr Chirac to suspend the Schengen agreement to end border controls and his contemptuous rejection of EU condemnation of French nuclear tests.

develop while maintaining domestic identity forged by history, blood and modes of government.

Monetary union would not be determined solely by financial and economic factors but would need real concentration on a political Europe, he added.

"It would be wrong to reduce this last point to a simple demand by Germany," he wrote.

"In encouraging our people and their leaders to look at the future and weigh up the risks and opportunities and, in the end, to bring out changes for the better, it [Europe] is still the bearer of hope."

The former Commission president's comments will be badly received at the French president's office following recent intense efforts by Mr Chirac to give the impression that France and Germany were working closely together and to dispel reports that the majority of his Gaullist party's executive were Euro-sceptics.

It was after seeing Chancellor Helmut Kohl in October that Mr Chirac said that a single currency was "the priority of priorities" — a decision which brought about social security austerity measures to balance the budget, which helped spark off recent industrial unrest.

Last month, the two leaders decided on a joint programme to speed up a single currency and, in his New Year message, Mr Chirac said that European co-operation was more necessary than ever for France.

#### France plays with fire by swinging from nationalism to federalism

Mr Delors's review of a book called Europe's Choice by Laurent Cohen-Tanugi carried a note of regret that he was not still in charge of the Commission and at the centre of policy on a single currency and political union. Mr Delors, who has retired from public life, pointed out that, despite doubts on European unity, Mr Cohen-Tanugi had praised the federal approach that dominated discussions during Mr Delors's term in office.

A federation of nation states was needed because it lifted ambiguity over the conflicting ambitions of France and Germany, Mr Delors argued. A federation would allow joint initiatives to de-

## EC orange tariff gives squeezers the pip

Stephen Bates in Brussels

THE British appetite for fresh orange juice is likely to be squeezed after a tart reminder of the European Commission's power to preserve the rights of Mediterranean citrus-growers.

The price of bottled fresh juice, a best-seller in supermarkets and sandwich bars, is likely to rise by at least 20 per cent next month following the imposition of tariffs on imported oranges to protect orange-growers in Spain, Italy and Greece.

The tariffs were due to come into force at the beginning of December but were delayed because of protests from Britain. The industry may yet be pressed for £150,000 in back duties, however.

If the levy is imposed the supermarket price of a litre bottle of orange juice will increase from about £2.15 to £2.60.

The introduction of tariffs of up to 30 per cent on oranges grown outside the EU will badly affect the British industry, the orange squeezer's say, because it relies on supplies from Florida, the Caribbean and Latin America for much of the year.

Most of Europe has not noticed the problem because, surprisingly, freshly squeezed

juice has not been taken up in a big way. Continentals are prepared to make do with thin and syrupy pasteurized juice, which looks as if it has never been in contact with the skin.

It is only in recent years that freshly squeezed juice has made an impression on the British market.

The tariff has alarmed John Sexton, managing director of Johnson's Fresh Products, which has grown in 10 years

30 per cent more to import them. The price will have to be passed on, and we are afraid that most people will not be able to afford to pay it."

In the complex world of squeezing you cannot use just any old orange. The navel oranges which are the main products of Spanish and Greek groves contain a substance in the pith called limonin which makes the juice taste bitter within an hour or two of being squeezed.

British fresh juice producers use Lam Valencia oranges which, despite their name, are available from Europe only for about three months in the early summer, and have to be imported from the US, Brazil or South Africa for the rest of the year.

It is these imports which are now being subjected to the tariff. So far the Commission has relented to the extent of allowing in 12,000 tonnes of non-EU oranges at reduced rates, mainly to satisfy British cravings.

Officials in Brussels are planning to look at the tariffs again next week.

A Commission spokesman said: "The Greeks and Italians want the British to import their oranges instead. If other members of the family are producing fruit they are not likely to be happy if you say you want to buy your fruit elsewhere."

'It will certainly make the industry contract, and for no good reason'

from a cottage industry run from an East London back kitchen to a main supplier of hotels and restaurants.

He said yesterday: "It will certainly make the industry contract and it is being done for no good reason. It won't help the orange-growers in Spain or Greece, because they can't supply the oranges we need for most of the year anyway, so it just means there will be fewer buyers for their fruit in Britain."

"We are using up the last of the oranges imported before the tariff, but from February we will have to pay about

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Sid Thompson

Grand old man of the Cumbrian crags

THE ROCK climber at 81 cuts a disad-

port harbour photographs of

the Great Flake; the first

partnership with Cliff Sand-

He has pedalled here the 23

Until a few years before his

the living room of his



Sid Thompson at 81... Britain's oldest rock climber

PHOTOGRAPH: DON McPHEE



Hands that helped in 44 climbs of Scafell's Central Buttress

Hamish Imlach

A song, a glass and a laugh

HAMISH IMLACH, who has died aged 55,

Australia before coming to

and Ray Fisher, and became

on I gave a headache." He

Friend and mentor... Hamish Imlach led the way for



Friend and mentor... Hamish Imlach led the way for

Political commitment made

He became the biggest star

touring partner, the respected

Finally I set him down with

Hamish was an outsize

Moore and the Dubliners. At

Benny Lee

Forever on with the show

BENNY LEE, who has died aged 78,



Radio days... Benny Lee at work in the fifties

Born in Glasgow he became

became linked with mine in

With the mid-fifties sea

In his last years, persisting

He won goodish roles in

Benny Lee, entertainer, born

Another day

January 4, 1944: John Betje-

Letter

Louis Massiah writes: I first

As my collaborator and the

Birthdays

Grace Bumbry, opera

Death Notices

GUSTAVUS JONES, Kenneth

KENNEDY, Alan (John) (see

Acknowledgments

COOPER, Esther (nee Withers,

Jackdaw



"I'M SITTING in a room now

light blue, green and brown-

"I'm sitting in a room now

Ladder climb

IF YOU look around, zeigzeits-

EVERY YEAR I take a shoot-

more frivolous than Green-

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the delightful sense of having

EVERY YEAR I take a shoot-

tor of the Daily Telegraph) true

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# FinanceGuardian

Despite Robinson supporters' club, underwriters unhappy about level of bid needed to secure Forte

## City doubts Granada win

**G**RANADA'S headroom to launch a knock-out takeover bid for hotels group, Forte, was dealt a blow yesterday when some of the City's big fund managers said they would be unhappy to provide funds for a substantially higher offer.

Granada's bid values Forte at about £3.12 billion and much of that is funded by a City-wide underwriting exercise in which investors agree to buy new shares for a minimum price.

The group is expecting to be able to show its shareholders that the acquisition of Forte will enhance earnings and is likely to provide details of the £100 million a year profit improvement it believes achievable at the hotels group in its final document on January 9.

But even shareholders who claim to be fans of Granada chief Gerry Robinson say they will need to be provided with substantial comfort if they are to agree to participate in a higher offer.

Hoare Govett — which together with BZW and Chemical Bank arranged the original underwriting facility of £2.5 billion — said he was not aware of any hostility coming from the sub-underwriters.

Granada is widely expected to have to increase its bid to win the battle after Forte revealed an increased valuation for its core hotels, promised shareholders an \$200 million buy back and a distribution of the company's stake in the Savoy hotels chain as well as having secured more than £1 billion for its restaurants business.

### Notebook

## Political signals set against offer



Edited by Alex Brummer

**R**AILTRACK has been positioned on the privatisation slipway with the decision to announce a May public offer in which retail investors will enjoy a degree of preference. The decision by the Government and its financial advisers, SBC Warburg, to press ahead with the share issue is an act of bravery given the legal, political and business uncertainties surrounding rail privatisation.

### Green peril

**A**LTHOUGH this may be a vain new year wish, it must be hoped that 1996 sees a reversal of last year's loss of momentum on environmental issues in the business world.

### Bravura effort

**I**T HAS been an unspoken assumption throughout the course of the closely-fought Granada bid for Forte that all that Gerry Robinson, so long a City favourite, had to do was lift his finger and the cash would be ready to support a higher bid.

### Ford bullish on European return to profitability

**F**ORD expects its European operations to reverse recent losses and be profitable this year, chairman and chief executive Alex Trotman said yesterday, writes Chris Barrie.



Blue streak... Ford's two-seat V12 concept car, the Indigo, was unveiled at the Detroit International Auto Show

## Railtrack sell-off to go ahead in May

**T**HE Government signalled its determination to push ahead with railway privatisation yesterday by announcing that shares in Railtrack, the track operator, will be sold next May in a public and institutional offering through share shops nationwide.

Investors and the public that the sell-off would prove unpopular. Stressing that the timetable for the Railtrack sale was being met, transport department officials suggested its sale would maximise income for the Government just as privatisation would inject more competition and choice.

Under the terms of the Railtrack offer at least 30 per cent of the shares will be offered to the public who must register in advance with organisations acting as share shops, such as banks and building societies.

Known in advance, but the second will be determined by the strike price established in the international offer.

Westinghouse's Electronics Systems Group, based in Maryland, employs 14,000 workers and its chief products are air- and ground-based defence radar systems.

London takes tip from US as shares surge to new high

### Mood of buyers shows rate cut needed as orders dry up

**I**NFLATIONARY pressures in manufacturing industry have faded away as firms have cut prices to attract new orders, according to a survey released yesterday.

### Airbus loses ground in jet set

**M**ARK MILNER on developments in fight for the skies with rival Boeing

**A**IRBUS INDUSTRIE, the European manufacturer of big commercial jets, pulled in record revenues last year but new orders fell 15 per cent to 106 aircraft, which leaves the company trailing well behind its main rival, Boeing.

### Westinghouse sells defence arm for £2.3bn

**J**ONATHAN Freedland in Washington

**T**HE broadcasting and electronics giant Westinghouse is selling off its defence arm to the Norbitop Grumman Corporation for \$3.6 billion (£2.3 billion), in a move that accelerates the reshaping of both the US media and defence industries.

### London takes tip from US as shares surge to new high

**F**AUL Murphy

**T**HE CITY turned a blind eye to the troubles besetting John Major's Government yesterday, and share prices were pushed to an all-time peak in response to an earlier surge in US stock prices.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS				
Australia 2.02	France 7.36	Italy 2.382	Singapore 2.15	
Austria 15.11	Germany 2.1600	Malta 0.5375	South Africa 5.475	
Belgium 44.40	Greece 366.03	Netherlands 2.4250	Spain 162.00	
Canada 2.05	Hong Kong 11.80	New Zealand 2.31	Sweden 10.10	
Cyprus 0.6950	India 44.73	Norway 9.50	Switzerland 1.73	
Denmark 8.41	Ireland 0.94	Portugal 228.00	Turkey 90.310	
Finland 6.97	Israel 4.86	Saudi Arabia 5.90	USA 1.5175	

Supplied by Reuters (including Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel)



Racing

Dublin Flyer out of King George

Graham Rock
THE horse might have come in time to save the rearranged King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Sandown on Saturday...

Barton Bank, while Ladbrokes are opposing Master Oats at 11-2.
Coral have Merry Gale (confirmed a definite runner) at identical odds, the longest available...

times, winning once, and being placed in the remainder.
Revelley and Peter Niven should also win the Cornish Slip Selling Handicap Hurdle with Kimberley Boy (1.10) and Cutthroat Kid has a chance in the Coddleshall Hall Hurdle on his third to Seamus Good at Doncaster...



Winning leap... David Bridgwater takes the final flight on Valiant Tock on the way to victory in yesterday's Godstone Selling Hurdle at Lingfield

Rugby League
Warrington look to Cullen for leadership

Paul Fitzpatrick
THE mantle of Warrington club captain has fallen to Paul Cullen; as one of the game's most articulate and intelligent players he should wear it well.
Cullen, now 32, used to be one of the game's firebrands, burning on one of the shortest fuses in the business. He used to run on to the pitch, he says, with an angel on one shoulder and a devil on the other but was never quite sure which one would carry the day...

Nottingham runners and riders with form guide

Table listing race details for Nottingham, including race numbers, names, and participants.

Lingfield (A.W. Flat)

Table listing race details for Lingfield (A.W. Flat), including race numbers, names, and participants.

Sedgefield

Table listing race details for Sedgefield, including race numbers, names, and participants.

Nottingham runners and riders with form guide (continued)

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Sedgefield (continued)

Table listing race details for Sedgefield, including race numbers, names, and participants.

Blinkered today for the first time: LINGFIELD: 1.00 Erling; 1.30 Golden Punch, Satis; NOTTINGHAM: 1.20 Dams; SEDGEFIELD: 1.10 Orchidams.

Results

LINGFIELD
1.30 (11) 110yds Hurdle (1) DARTER, S. (11) 110yds Hurdle (1) DARTER, S. (11) 110yds Hurdle (1) DARTER, S.

(R) Bestman) Total: £2.00, £1.50, £1.00, £0.50.
Duel P. £2.10, Tric. £1.20, CSP: £1.25.

Advertisement for RACELINE Full Results Service, featuring a phone number and a list of racing venues.





**Dublin Flyer takes a dive, page 13**

**South Coast showdown, page 14**

**Another outing for the Old Firm, page 14**

**Bloody nose for boxing safety, page 15**

# SportsGuardian

## LAST-WICKET STAND SWINGS SERIES BACK TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA

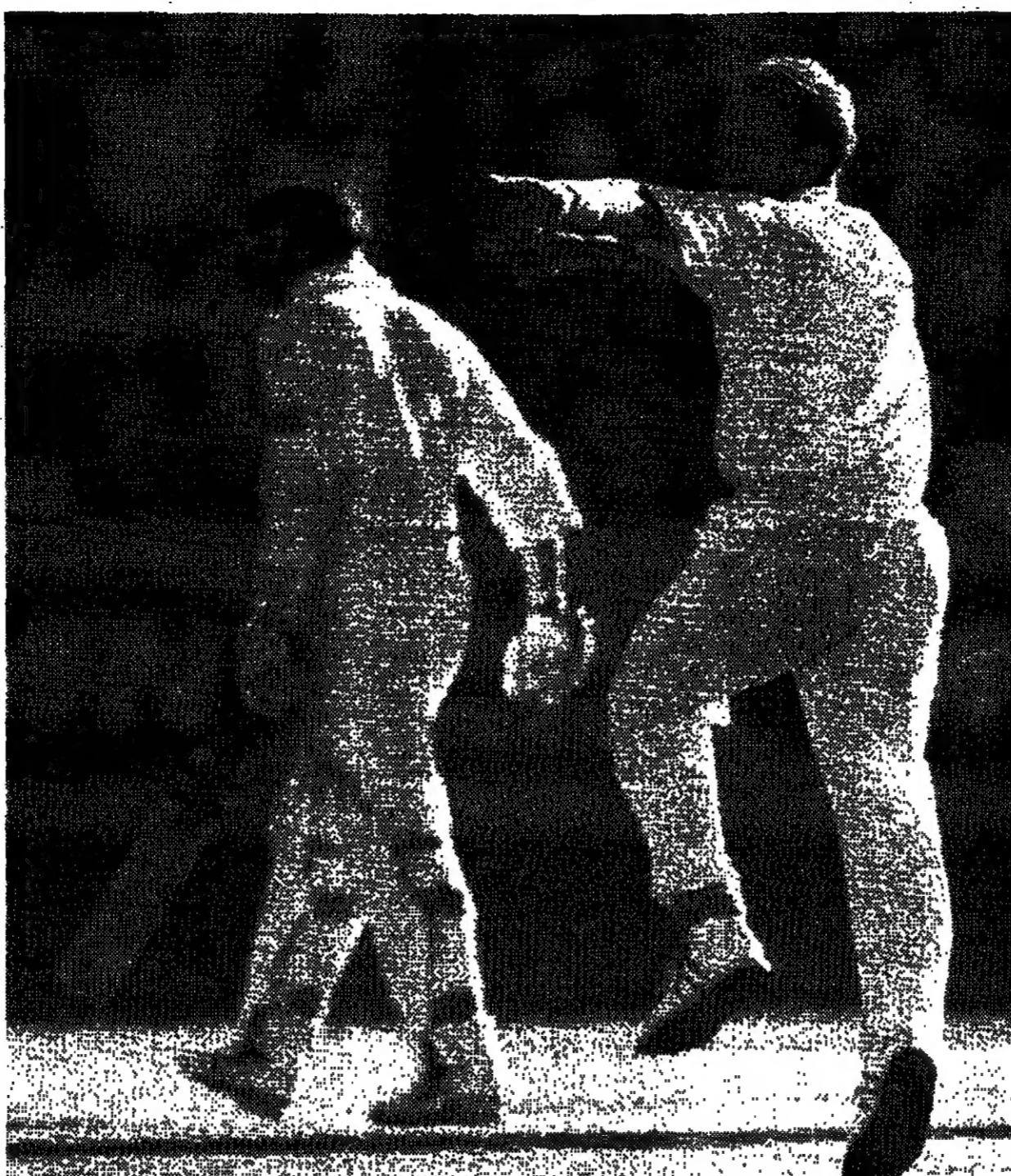
### England pay for Atherton blunder

**Mike Selvey in Cape Town**

**I**N THE course of a Test series a captain will be called upon to make thousands of decisions. Most are of insignificant importance, a few have a more direct impact on proceedings. Just occasionally, though, comes one on which can hinge not only a session or even a match but the outcome of the series.

Late yesterday afternoon Mike Atherton, so often the cornerstones of the England side, made a mistake that by this evening will probably have cost England this match and with it the series. Like the bounty hunter who returned to try to nab the Outlaw Josie Wales, it was something he had to do but it may haunt him for the rest of his career.

Atherton's blunder, as it is sure to become known, was in



Vital breakthrough... Allan Donald celebrates the priceless wicket of Mike Atherton

**Scoreboard**

**ENGLAND:** First innings 153 (R A Smith 56, Donald 5-48)

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings (overnight 44-2)

G Kirsten c Atherton b Washburn 23  
D J Cullinan c Russell b Martin 68  
J N Rhodes c Russell b Fraser 18  
B McCullum not out 59  
J H Kallis bow b Martin 7  
J P Richardson not out 4  
S M Pollock c Smith b Washburn 5  
A A Donald c Russell b Cork 8  
F R Adams c Hesk b Martin 33  
Extras (R2, NB) 11

Total (inc 101 overs) 153  
Fall of wickets: 0-28, 1-58, 2-122, 3-144, 4-153, 5-171  
Bowling: Cork 25-4-60-3; Malcom 20-6-66-0; Martin 24-6-27-0; Fraser 17-10-34-1; Washburn 18-3-36-4

**ENGLAND:** Second innings

M A Atherton c Richardson b Donald 19  
A J Stewart not out 4  
A R C Fraser not out 8  
Extras (R2, NB) 11

Total (inc 1.75 overs) 17  
Fall of wicket 16

To bats: R A Smith, G P Thorpe, G A Hick, W C Russell, M Washburn, D G Cork, P Martin, D E Malcom.  
Bowling: Donald 4-2-9-1; Pollock 2-0-4-0  
Umpires: S G Rendell and D L Orchard.

the bowler he chose to take the second new ball with his most prolific wicket-taker Dominic Cork in an attempt to mop up the final two South African wickets.

He might have opted for Peter Martin, who had bowled heroically on a searingly hot afternoon to apply such a tourney that the flow of runs had dried to a trickle; or Angus Fraser who had rediscovered some of his rhythm and with it his parsimony.

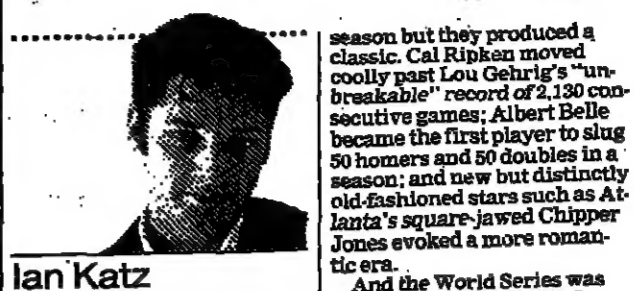
Instead, as many captains — including, if they were honest, hundreds of amateur theorists in the stands — would have done, he handed the ball to his fastest bowler Devon Malcolm in the not unreasonable belief that tail-enders roll over and die.

Allan Donald duly did, to the Cork-Russell combination, giving the England wicketkeeper his 27th victim of an abbreviated series and taking him to within a single dismissal of Rod Marsh's all-time series record. That reduced South Africa, who had begun the day at 44 for two, to 171 for nine, an 18-run lead that remained slender even on such a helpful pitch.

South Africa, for all their packed batting side, were on the rack and England, buoyant, knew that a swift *coup de grace* and one, just one, major innings and the game could be theirs.

Instead the next hour turned serious drama to abject farce as Dave Richardson, Russell's counterpart, and Paul Adams, an 18-year-old in only his second Test, reduced Malcolm to rubble, and with it the England effort. By the time Hick snaffled Adams at second slip to give Martin his third wicket, this unlikely pair had taken the score to 244, adding 73 for the last wicket, the highest partnership of the match. There was an unbeaten 54 to Richardson, his second half-century in

### US take soul responsibility to heart



**Ian Katz**

**S**OMETHING peculiar has happened in offices, bars and living rooms across the United States: people have stopped moaning about sport.

There is, of course, no shortage of whingeing about particular teams and players; about the Dallas coach Barry Switzer's inexplicable decision to run the ball on a late-game fourth down against Philadelphia or the latest atrocity perpetrated by the Yankees megalomaniac owner George Steinbrenner.

But the existential angst has gone. When I arrived in the US a little over a year ago, one could not read the back pages for more than a day or two without being assailed by a diatribe about how American sport had lost its soul.

The most profound source of angst was the months-old baseball strike which had already cost a World Series and threatened to derail the entire 1995 season. How had the game of Joe DiMaggio and Babe Ruth been reduced to a slanging match between two groups of petulant millionaires, the nation wondered aloud.

But the country's other mainstream sports were hardly inspiring the fans either. The NBA, for a decade the success story of US professional sport, seemed dull and artless without superstars like Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird.

Fans muttered about a new generation of trash-talking players with egos to match their pay-cheques. The unlovely 1994 championship finals between the thrushy New York Knicks and the not-yet-classy Houston Rockets reeked of mediocrity.

**E**VEN gridiron football, notwithstanding the return to greatness of the San Francisco 49ers, offered little consolation. A familiar group of veterans continued to dominate while the AFC, vanquished in the previous 10 Super Bowls, again failed to produce a team to challenge seriously for the prize.

How things have changed. Not only did the baseball players return to the diamonds in time to salvage an abbreviated season but they produced a classic. Cal Ripken moved coolly past Lou Gehrig's "unbreakable" record of 2,130 consecutive games; Albert Belle became the first player to slug 50 homers and 50 doubles in a season; and new but distinctly old-fashioned stars such as Atlanta's square-jawed Chipper Jones evoked a more romantic era.

And the World Series was nothing less than poetic. It pitched the Cleveland Indians, a resurgent team, against the Atlanta Braves, the team of the Nineties.

**B**UT nowhere is the difference more striking than in basketball. Before Jordan's return from self-imposed exile in March, the closest thing the NBA had to stars was fading veterans such as Charles Barkley and Patrick Ewing and a handful of youngsters such as Shaquille O'Neal. It spoke volumes that the league's Most Valuable Player award went to David Robinson, the high-scoring but workmanlike San Antonio centre.

Now commentators salivate over the most exciting basketball scene since the 1940s glory days of the 1940s: Jordan's Chicago Bulls, with their best ever starting record of 25 wins and three defeats this season, have turned the game into an exquisite ballet but no one is calling them Michael Jordan and the Jordanaires any more.

That is because, alongside Ewing, Robinson, Scottie Pippen has grown into a full-blown superstar while the Bulls' new acquisition, the NBA's bad boy Dennis Rodman, has demanded his share of the limelight. And the rest of the NBA seems to be sparkling like a clear night-sky in Orlando the silky point-guard Anfernee "Pecky" Hardaway is drawing comparisons to Johnson and J.R. "Dunc" in Detroit the silver-tongued rookie Grant Hill is playing almost as well as he talk in Houston Hakeem Olajuwon and his Rockets still soar.

Even the football play-offs seem exciting this year. The "winning" team, as Americans like to say, are not Dallas or San Francisco but the AFC's Kansas City Chiefs. The top-rated quarter-back is not Marino or Elway but Jim Harbaugh of the improbable Indianapolis Colts, who won their first post-season game in 24 years last weekend. The Green Bay Packers, the gritty team-without-a-town, are great again.

With so much to talk about, it is hardly surprising the meaners have forgotten that American sport is dead.

### Maradona tells of his struggle against cocaine addiction

**John Duncan**

**D**IEGO MARADONA has for the first time described his daily struggle with cocaine addiction, saying he was speaking out against drugs "for the kids".

"I was, I am and I always will be a drug addict," Maradona said in an interview with an Argentinian magazine. "You can't just get up and say: 'It's over.' You can't. You have to wake up and say: 'Today I'm going to fight against the hell of drugs.' Only that way can you fight and try to recover."

The 35-year-old forward said he first took cocaine when he joined Barcelona at the age of 22, four years before leading Argentina to World Cup victory in Mexico. He has since twice been found guilty of possessing or distributing cocaine and twice suspended after testing positive. "I suffered a lot because of drugs," he said. "Much more than anyone could believe."

Maradona related how he was once so wasted that he was unable to get his daughter Gianina a glass of water. "I couldn't get up. I felt like I was stuck to the mattress. And my hand shook. The cocaine had numbed me completely."

Maradona went public with his problem as the Argentinian government launched a campaign against drug use by young people called "Sun Without Drugs". He will figure prominently in it.

He said he had told his youngest daughter Dalma: "Fupi made a mistake, a big mistake. Now I want to tell young people about this, and it is going to hurt you, but I want to try to help those kids who could go through the same thing I went through."

"And she told me: 'I'm with you, Papi.' I'm going to take her with me on the anti-drug campaign, but not often, because every time I tell about this she cries."

### Guardian Crossword No 20,540

Set by Araucaria

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 26.

**Across**

- 1,4 Ancient patriarch in rash development by fiery chariot racer? (6,8)
- 9 Electric company gets a big shock on the Lizard (5)
- 10 Push-chair, a pet project with an infestation (4,6)
- 11 Woodwork at the fish gate (9)
- 12 A month in Spain is a nuisance (5)
- 13 Talk books? (5,7)
- 17 Consequences, etc., of Prague morals? (7,5)
- 20 Beast expressed satisfaction about craving (5)
- 21 Schism from church during working period? (9)
- 23 American writer backed in to knock down our leaders (3,6)

**Down**

- 24 Author of "Reflections of a Governess"? (5)
- 25 Under 50% being under 18 (8)
- 26 Big gun at billiards (8)

**Down**

- 1 Called once about firms at great expense (4,4)
- 2 One who makes notes with pipe (8)
- 3 Free love comes in to be parted from (5)
- 5 English colony confused with suburb? That's all right then (3,1,4,5)
- 6 Composer of "The Martyred Mountain" (5,4)
- 7 Adriatic merchantman strikes a hopeful note inside (5)
- 8 Saw the negative principle in loss of tension (6)

**Solution tomorrow**

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**I'm inclined to think that Seven contains more style than content, and suffers from that other deadly sin of self-consciousness.**  
Derek Malcom  
G2 page 9

سكتا من الاميل